

Iran to send ambassador to Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Iran has decided to send an ambassador to Jordan to fill a post left vacant for nearly 14 years, a Jordanian official said Wednesday. The two countries cut diplomatic ties in 1980 because of Amman's backing for Baghdad during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iran war and restored them in 1990. The official said he could not comment on whether the appointment of a new ambassador represented an improvement in relations. Other Jordanian officials and the Iranian embassy were not immediately available for comment. The official said Ahmad Dastmalchian, a close aide to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and an envoy to Lebanon between 1987 and 1990, would arrive soon to take up the post. "All routine work has been completed and Mr. Dastmalchian is expected to arrive soon," he told Reuters. The Iranian embassy in Amman is currently run by a chargé d'affaires.



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Arafat meets Egyptian presidential adviser

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz Wednesday after three days of talks in Jordan. Sources at Cairo airport said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Baz were meeting at the airport and Mr. Arafat was to leave later for the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

More spies under wraps in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has secretly tried and jailed at least three Israelis for spying and they are currently serving long prison terms, security sources said Wednesday. In the past at least six other Israelis convicted of spying have served jail sentences without the public knowing, they added. Those spies have since been released. The authorities said only the prisoners' families and warned them that if they mentioned the cases to anyone, their conditions for their relatives would be tougher, the sources said. Gad Ben-Ari, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, would not confirm or deny the report. The sources did not disclose the identities of the three Israelis currently in jail.

Mines kill 3 in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Two Pakistani mine clearers and a Frenchman have been killed and another Pakistani has been wounded while clearing explosives, officials said Wednesday. Major Noman Siddiqi told the Associated Press the bodies of the two Pakistanis, Mohammad Husain, 43, and Mushtaq Ahmad, 31, were flown home Wednesday. He said Maqbool Hussain, 42, was out of danger. A French sapper also has been killed in a mine explosion, said an interior ministry statement. The Frenchman, who worked for a mine-clearing company, died on his way to the hospital, the statement said.

2 boys wounded in Israeli sniper fire

NABATIYEH (AP) — Two schoolchildren were wounded Wednesday by sniper fire from Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon, security sources said. They identified the students as nine-year-old Ziad Shami, who was critically wounded in the abdomen, and Atef Muehimeishi, 16, who suffered a slight injury in the right shoulder. The sources said the boys were playing in the school yard of a privately run academy when Israeli gunners and their surrogate South Lebanon Army (SLA) fighters opened up with sniper rifles and heavy machineguns on Nabatiyeh's northeastern outskirts around 2 p.m. (1100 GMT).

Iran denies opposition attacked pipelines

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian Interior Minister Abdullah Nouri denied Wednesday a claim by an Iranian opposition group that it had destroyed major oil installations close to the Iraqi border. "There has never been anything," Mr. Nouri said. He told a news conference in Tehran that a few weeks ago there were minor explosions at the border in a redundant pipeline which had been destroyed in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. He blamed infiltrators from Iraq. Some escaped but more than 10 were captured and have already been executed, he added. The Iranian opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq group said it had attacked Iranian oil pipelines and revolutionary guards on Monday.

Saudis send Palestinian donations to PLO

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has so far this year sent the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) more than \$15 million in private donations it has collected from Palestinians living in the kingdom. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted an official of a committee in charge of collecting the donations as saying that up to 10.4 million Saudi riyals (\$2.6 million) were sent on Tuesday to the PLO.

King: Changes to Election Law only through dialogue

His Majesty warns against 'enemies of democracy who want to use it as cover'
Monarch optimistic for success of U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday any change to the Election Law would be taken only through a comprehensive national dialogue with the involvement of all Jordanians.

At an unscheduled meeting with journalists at the Prime Ministry Wednesday, King Hussein said nothing had so far crystallised changing the law.

"No certain stand or opinion has thus crystallised on this law," the King said. "If we decide to change or amend the law, this will be done through a comprehensive national dialogue in which (members of) the Jordanian family, to which we all belong, will participate in a brotherly atmosphere to enhance democracy, which we are experiencing and which we are keen to preserve, exactly as the way the National Charter was prepared and endorsed," he said.

King Hussein told representatives of the local and international media, who were present at the Prime Ministry to meet Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, that there was a full Jordanian-

Palestinian agreement to continue coordination between the two sides at all levels.

Jordan, he said, supports Palestinian rights with all its capabilities. "I believe that Jordanians and Palestinians are one family with one destiny and one goal," he said. "Nevertheless, we do not impose on the Palestinians any view or position they do not want."

The King stressed that Jordan would not sign a separate bilateral peace treaty with Israel, saying the Palestinian problem is the root cause of the Middle East problem.

Commenting on a draft agenda for the Jordanian-Israeli track of the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, the King said Jordan had linked its approval of the document to progress on other negotiating tracks, especially the Palestinian-Israeli one.

King Hussein said his visit to the U.S. next week is primarily a working visit in response to an official invitation extended to him by President Bill Clinton.

The King said he would discuss during his June 18 meeting with

Mr. Clinton all aspects of the Middle East crisis and other regional issues.

He expressed hope that the visit could contribute to improving Jordanian-American relations.

"Clearly, the U.S. administration is interested in the visit, and so am I, since it comes at a time when a new administration which raises the motto of democracy and human rights has taken over," he said.

He added that he would brief Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the outcome of the visit when he returns home.

King Hussein said that while in the U.S. he would also undergo routine medical checkups after medical reports indicated that he had fully recovered from the operation he underwent in Mayo Clinic in Rochester last year.

The King warned of the enemies of democracy "who use it as a cover to destroy it," and said these constitute a danger to the democratisation process in Jordan.

Continued on page 5

Palestinians head for Washington consultations

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian negotiators left for Washington Wednesday to meet State Department officials in an effort to break the logjam in peace talks with Israel.

Saeed Erekat, a member of the team, said the Palestinians would ask Washington to clarify its role in the Middle East peace process, launched under the Bush administration in October 1991, and explain its policy towards a number of key issues related to the Palestinian question.

He said the Palestinians would ask the United States "to honour its commitment as an honest and fair broker in the talks."

Western and Arab diplomats quoted by Reuters said the U.S. was unlikely to come up with better terms for the Palestinians. One said Washington had told Palestinians it was tiring of "hand-holding" the negotiators before each new round of talks.

The Palestinian decision (if) to continue negotiations in the tenth round will be determined by the position of the U.S. administration" chief delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi told Reuters before leaving for the West Bank and on to Washington.

His remarks contradicted statements by the spokeswoman for the delegation and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Both have said there is no danger of the Palestinians suspending participation in a 10th round of negotiations with Israel due to begin on Tuesday.

Spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who left Amman directly for Washington Wednesday, denied that the team was considering boycotting the talks. "No," she said when asked whether the Palestinians were considering staying away. "These discussions (in Washington) are preparatory for the tenth round and for negotiations in the right context."

Dr. Ashrawi was accompanied by six other members of the delegation, including Ghassan Al Khatib who announced before the last round of talks that he was withdrawing from negotiations.

He has said he will be involved in the discussions with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian but has not yet decided whether to go back to the bargaining table next week.

West Bank leader Faisal Al Hussein, who has been far more positive than Dr. Abdul Shafi about continued Palestinian participation in the peace process, said this week in Abu Dhabi that he himself would head the team.

PLO officials said a meeting in Amman chaired by Mr. Arafat decided late Tuesday that Dr. Abdul Shafi would head the delegation.

Palestinian shot dead in Gaza

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — Soldiers shot dead an Arab youth during clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday, Palestinians said.

In a separate incident, an Israeli truck driver was lightly wounded when stabbed by an Arab woman at the Gaza-Israel border.

Palestinians said Amin Amar, 15, was killed during severe clashes with soldiers in the Bureij refugee camp, which was under curfew while troops searched houses for wanted activists.

Palestinians said another resident of the camp was seriously injured in the same clash.

On the Gaza side of the crossing to Israel, a Palestinian woman stabbed the truck driver who had stopped to buy vegetables, an army official said.

The victim, who was lightly wounded, caught the woman and turned her over to the army, the official said.

The death at Bureij took to 1,102 the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since a revolt began against Israeli rule in the occupied territories in December 1987. In the same period 134 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians.

Mr. Hussein is still on a tour of Arab Gulf states, trying to improve relations with former major PLO donors.

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CELEBRATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein waters the 'tree of life' and attends celebrations Wednesday marking the anniversary of Great Arab Revolt and Army Day (see page 3)



Deputies seek clear government position on election legislation

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday demanded that the government clearly define its position on the Election Law and insisted that any changes to the law should pass the legislature.

The deputies plan to obtain this clarification through a meeting that House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat is expected to request with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday.

"Any change or amendment to the Election Law should pass through the legislative authority in accordance with the Constitution and in commitment to cooperation between the two branches of which none should ignore the other," deputies said in a statement issued after a closed meeting at the House Wednesday.

Fifty-seven deputies attended the meeting, which was held to discuss possible government action on the

Election Law.

The deputies demanded that the government call an extraordinary session of the House if it was planning to introduce any changes to the legislation "so that Parliament can exercise its constitutional authorities in legislation."

Deputies told the Jordan Times after the meeting that they would request the convening of an extraordinary session if the government amended the law.

The constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session could be held at the request of 41 deputies or more.

Spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood at the House Ibrahim Khreisat told the Jordan Times after the meeting that he "believes" there will be enough support for holding the session if the government changed the law.

Brotherhood Deputy Ahmad Al Haj said the bloc tried to obtain deputies' support for a bid to request an

(Continued on page 5)

Electricity tariff increases imminent

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An increase in the tariffs for electricity is imminent following the hike in the prices of fuel oil used by government-run power-generating facilities, officials and informed sources said Wednesday.

"The exact formula and structure of the increases will be announced in the next two or three days," Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Walid Asfour, said.

Mr. Asfour declined to provide details of the new tariffs, which, along with the increase in prices of kerosene, fuel oil and jet fuel which went into

effect Wednesday, are the latest in the series of economic austerity measures implemented by Jordan under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Certain categories of consumers will not be affected by the increases in electricity tariffs," Mr. Asfour told the Jordan Times.

Other sources said the decision to increase the tariffs was taken at Tuesday's session of the Council of Ministers and would go into effect as soon as a related 10-page document is published in the official gazette.

According to sources close to the energy sector, the prop-

osed increase will be around 12 per cent, and households consuming less than 300 kilowatts per month will be exempt from the hike.

"The social impacts of the measure was thoroughly studied over the past several months in preparation for the increases," said a senior source.

The source, who preferred anonymity, said: "It is automatic that the electricity tariffs go up since the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Irbid District Electric Company now have to pay higher prices for fuel oil to run their plants."

The two facilities are Jordan's main public sector producers of electricity.

Based on a calculation that an increase of JD1 per tonne of fuel means an annual additional cost of JD1 million for the energy producers, the JD6 dinar increase announced Tuesday will add JD6 million to their costs.

The expected increase in electricity tariffs will not only make up for the additional cost but also contribute to redressing the consistent operational losses that the JEA has been suffering for the past several years, according to the source.

The source estimated that the increases, including the hike in kerosene and jet fuel prices, which mean a reduction

(Continued on page 5)

Mogadishu batters down for U.N.-Aided showdown

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Mogadishu battered down on Wednesday in anticipation of an explosive showdown between U.N. forces and Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideded over the killing of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers.

The few aid workers remaining in the Somali capital retreated behind sandbagged walls while U.N. troops doubled security at key installations and hunted down snipers.

Aid workers said they had been warned in confidential briefings by the U.N. to expect "collateral damage" from a military strike against General Aideded's militia.

U.N. officials declined to discuss the briefing with reporters and many were busy moving to freshly-fortified offices in the former American embassy on the outskirts of the capital.

There was no word when the strike might be. U.N. sources said privately that it would be

within a few days, but declined to be more specific.

The United States is sending AC-130 planes with devastating firepower to Somalia, Clinton administration officials said in Washington.

"They are going," said one of the officials, when asked if the United States was sending the AC-130 "Spectre" gunships, heavily-armed, computer-equipped versions of the U.S. Air Force's lumbering four-engine C-130 military transports.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Washington was also considering U.N. requests to send tanks and other weaponry.

The turbo-prop AC-130 aircraft carry a 105-mm gun as well as 20-mm and 7.6-mm rapid-fire machineguns. They are loaded with radar and computers to destroy ground targets with pinpoint accuracy.

Pakistan has blamed Aideded

forces for the ambush in which the 23 Pakistanis and 20 Somalis were killed in the worst violence since the United States initiated efforts to restore law and order in Somalia in December.

There was widespread speculation that the U.N. would try to bring Gen. Aideded to heel with an air strike against installations he controls to avoid getting bogged down in house-to-house fighting with his followers.

Most aid workers were evacuated at the weekend. Many of those who remained voiced disappointment at the impending showdown, saying it would wreck months of relief work.

"We're very depressed," said one Western aid worker as he packed his bags and prepared to take shelter in a compound away from Gen. Aideded's rambling city centre headquarters.

The Security Council refrained from blaming Gen. Aideded directly in a weekend resolution

demanding the speedy arrest of those responsible for one of the worst attacks against its peacekeepers since they were deployed in world trouble spots.

But privately U.N. officials said they could not allow Saturday's attack to go unpunished because it would undermine the role the U.N. is carving for itself in Cambodia, Bosnia and elsewhere in the post-cold war "new world order."

There was no word from Gen. Aideded.

He has accused the U.N. of starting Saturday's attack with an assault on the radio station which broadcasts propaganda of his wing of the United Somali Congress (USC) party.

Unsigned leaflets began appearing on the streets Tuesday night warning members of the 30,000-strong U.N. force "to leave our country as immediately as they can."

They urged Somalis to "fight to

the last drop of our blood to safeguard ourselves and our beloved country."

The leaflets conveyed the mood of the city. Normally cheerful Somali residents now gesticulated at and menace aid workers trying to repair two years of civil strife.

U.N. troops noticeably absent from the streets in the immediate aftermath of Saturday's slaughter, were out in force on Wednesday, patrolling key areas of the battered town on foot and in armoured personnel carriers (APCs).

Contingents from Canada, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan could be seen moving briskly about town. There were fewer militia gunmen around than on Tuesday, residents said.

Helicopters hovered around October 21 Street, near where the Pakistanis were caught in what the U.N. says was a well-worked-out ambush.

On the Occasion of the Anniversary of
The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day



ARAB BANK

has the honour to convey to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and the Jordanian People its
felicitations and best wishes.

U.S. wants allies to deny military technology to Iran

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher offered intelligence data on Iran to America's allies in Europe Wednesday and urged them to deny Tehran military-useful technology.

"Iran must be persuaded to abandon its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes," Mr. Christopher said. "We need concerted action to deal firmly and creatively with dangerous states that are contributing to tensions in areas like the Middle East, the most worrisome of these countries, the one Europe can directly influence, is Iran," he said at a news conference after meeting with foreign ministers of the 12 European Community (EC) nations.

U.S. officials said Mr. Christopher hoped to persuade France, Germany, Italy and others to reduce their economic ties to the fundamentalist government and specifically to stop providing Iran with "dual-purpose" equipment that could be useful in a missile programme.

Mr. Christopher's main goal at his session with the foreign ministers was to gain support for the use of air power to protect U.N. peacekeepers who will shield tens of thousands of homeless civilians in Bosnia.

At a luncheon following the two-and-a-half-hour session, Mr. Christopher unexpectedly put the spotlight on Iran and the threat the Clinton administration says it poses in spreading dangerous weapons and promoting terrorism.

At the news conference, Mr. Christopher called for "strong, collective action" by the United States and Europe, and a working group was set up to report on any progress at the next meeting of the European Community in September.

"Some of the nations around the table indicated it may be time to take a new look at developing new policies," Mr. Christopher said.

U.S. officials said France, Germany and Italy held the view that economic relations with Iran could be a means of modifying Tehran's policies.

But the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the partial intelligence data Mr. Christopher provided at the lunch, to be supplemented later, seemed to move some of the Europeans to the position that trade must be severely constrained, especially that involving dual-use material.

The Bush administration last year launched a similar effort to curb technology transfers to Iran, with no apparent result.

The Clinton administration decided to make a major drive now because of information gathered only in the last several weeks or months, one of the officials said.

Iran is holding a presidential election this week, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is trying to develop Iran's economy by ending its isolation with the West, is expected to win another four-year term.

Sudanese rebels break safe havens deadline

NAIROBI (R) — Rival Sudanese rebel factions say their fighters are still inside Sudan's "famine triangle" three days after a U.S.-brokered deadline to pull out and make the area safe for relief efforts.

Tens of thousands of hungry civilians inside the area around the settlements of Kongor, Ayod, Waat and Yusi have been largely cut off from aid by vicious rebel fighting and heavy rains.

They risk starvation unless food reaches them in the next few weeks, aid workers say.

The U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Donald Peterson, last month negotiated an agreement between the two rival factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to withdraw all their forces from the area by last Sunday.

But leaders of the breakaway united faction said late Tuesday their fighters were still there, despite the accord.

"Theoretically (the area) have been demilitarised and there has been no confrontation. But the actual military pullout has still to take place on both sides," John Luk Jok, a united commander, told Reuters.

"As far as we are concerned, our people are in the process of pulling out," he said.

Justin Arop, head of humanitarian affairs for the SPLA's main faction led by John Garang, said he had no contact with the area since the Sunday deadline but he thought fighters were still withdrawing.

"We actually have only a very small force in the area, police to keep security," he said.

Colonel Garang's forces are around Kongor while united controls Ayod and Waat to the north and Yusi to the east.

Both sides have been fighting what they see as Arab, Muslim domination of Sudan's government in a 10-year civil war which has killed up to half a million people. But they have now divided mainly along tribal lines and turned on each other.

Caught in the middle are up to 1.5 million southern Sudanese whom aid workers say will need food aid this year. Aid agencies pulled permanent staff out of the region after their workers were killed in the fighting.

The rainy season has now made large areas difficult to access until October.

Since the rains began three weeks ago, humanitarian agencies flying from Kenya to remote dirt airstrips all over southern Sudan have severely cut back on flights, worried that their few planes could get bogged down in thick mud as they land.



DESERT FIGHTERS: Polisario Front Secretary General Mohammed Abdul Aziz with a detachment of his soldiers at the refugee camp of Hassi Rabouat in Tindouf, in southwest Algeria. The front is fighting Morocco for control of the disputed Western Sahara, a former Spanish territory where the United Nations is seeking to organise a referendum on self-determination. U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had talks with Mr. Abdul Aziz during his visit in Tindouf June 4 (AFP photo)

Afghanistan becoming biggest heroin producer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan is the world's largest heroin producer and rebel leaders, once hailed as freedom fighters by the West, are the biggest drug barons, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Matti Teravainen, field adviser for the U.N. International Drug Control Programme for Afghanistan, said the problem is enormous.

Poppies, used to make heroin, blanket tens of thousands of hectares in Afghanistan, he said. U.N. officials believe about 2,000 tonnes of opium will be harvested in Afghanistan this year.

Afghanistan's Islamic government which replaced the old communist regime a year ago disavows involvement in poppy production.

Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is still cannot enter the capital for fear of being killed by his former rebel allies, is believed to be one of the biggest producers.

"Officially the government is against drugs. Officially Hekmatyar is against drugs and officially (President Burhanuddin) Rabbani is against drugs," said Mr. Teravainen. "But the reality is quite different."

Mr. Teravainen, whose office is supposed to be in Kabul, operates from the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, several hundred kilometres from the Afghan border.

The United Nations, like all foreign organisations in Kabul, has been driven out by the bitter fighting among rival rebel groups.

At least 10,000 people — mostly civilians — have been killed in the fighting, vast tracts of the capital destroyed, and half the population left homeless.

The U.N. offices in Kabul are manned by Afghan staff, and foreign staff venture into the Afghan capital infrequently, Mr. Teravainen said.

U.N. officials also believe a significant amount of poppy are being cultivated in the former Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, which border Afghanistan.

The "Golden Triangle" of Burma, Thailand and Cambodia has been replaced by the "Golden Crescent" of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, Mr. Teravainen said.

The most common smuggling routes are through Iran and Pakistan, which have a hard time patrolling remote roadways.

GCC backs UAE in dispute with Iran

DUBAI (Agencies) — Gulf Arab states Tuesday reaffirmed the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over three strategic Gulf islands, an issue that has strained ties with their powerful neighbour Iran.

Earlier in Tehran, Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan said that Iran would not compromise on its territorial claim on one of the islands, Abu Musa.

The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) also backed Saudi Arabia's ban on anti-American rally planned by Iranian pilgrims at the Haj in Mecca in May.

"The ministers reviewed the latest developments in relations with Iran and renewed their total support to the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands," said a statement issued after a two-day meeting in Riyadh.

It said the ministers supported "all peaceful measures taken by the UAE to restore its sovereignty over its islands."

The ministers also gave their "total support to measures taken by Saudi Arabia to safeguard the security of the pilgrims and enable them to perform their pilgrimage in peace."

But the statement said the ministers also "reviewed relations with Iran and renewed support to UAE's sovereignty on three islands, Abu Musa and the Greater and Smaller Tunbs," welcoming the agreement of the two sides to resume talks over the future of the islands. Iran last week invited the UAE foreign minister to Tehran for the purpose.

The Iranian defence minister said in a news conference shortly before the GCC statement was issued that Iran and Saudi Arabia had a difference of opinion over what Iranian pilgrims were allowed to do during the Haj but this "did not mean we could not cooperate in other fields."

A war of words broke out between Iran and Saudi Arabia two weeks ago when Saudi Arabia banned Iranian pilgrims during the annual Haj to holy places in its territory from holding an anti-American rally.

The row over the incident raised speculation that relations between Tehran and Riyadh might take a new turn to the worst only days after a largely successful fence-mending Gulf tour by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Kuwait assembly demands more crime data, police

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament, worried about rising crime, recommended Wednesday the government increase police numbers and publish a quarterly bulletin of crime data.

The opposition-dominated assembly also requested the emirate to publicise sentences handed down by courts and launch a media campaign to make citizens more security conscious.

Members have for months complained about a rise in crime, in particular rape and alcohol and drug offences, and say a lack of official information on the phenomenon has left Kuwaitis ill-prepared to face threats to their security.

Security authorities sometimes issue crime news to the media but are not obliged to publish formal periodical reports.

The assembly issued its recommendations in the early hours after a 15-hour debate behind closed doors on national security. Deputies asked the government to respond within three weeks.

"The Kuwaiti community will keep being worried unless the concept of national security is dealt with in a different manner," senior Member of Parliament Ismail Al Shatti wrote in a column in Al Watan newspaper.

The assembly said it wanted the government to announce through the media punishments for persons convicted "in major crimes which might cause worry and fear in the community."

It also wanted the quarterly bulletin to specify the nationality of offenders. Some deputies say a rise in the number of bachelor expatriates lies behind an increase in rape.

The recommendations call for a rise in the number of police by boosting incentives for young Kuwaitis to join the force. The government does not publish the size of its security forces.

Another recommendation was "to make the media war people about the danger of crime and its bad effect through realistic programmes based on the reality of local crime."

The assembly said it wanted the government to reopen all police stations and provide them with adequate staffing. Not all stations were reopened following the 1991 Gulf war.

"Governmental planning documents do not reflect a clear interest in this issue (security)," Mr. Shatti wrote, urging improved security coordination between the army, police, national guard and foreign affairs and information officials.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mediterranean news alliance hit with dispute

DAMASCUS (AP) — The newly-established Mediterranean news agencies alliance encountered its first setback Tuesday when the representative of Turkey's Anatolia news agency walked out of the closing session. Conference sources said the walkout was triggered by the conference endorsement of the membership of the Cyprus News Agency, representing the Greek-Cypriot part of the divided island, and refusal to approve membership for the agency in the Turkish-occupied northern portion. Anatolia's representative insisted on withdrawal despite repeated calls for him to stay, though the sources said. The conference, attended by representatives of 14 Arab and European news agencies, called on the developed news agencies within the Mediterranean region to provide assistance to the less-developed agencies. In a series of resolutions taken in the final session, the conferees underlined the need to consider launching advanced technical communication or link between data banks in the region. They urged the alliance to develop future services to the member agencies on such basic matters as environment, disarmament, arts and to develop means of service and information marketing for participant agencies. The conferees urged the European news agencies of the alliance to visualise the possibility of an effective network to exchange news and serve the interest of information.

Algerian court sentences two to death

ALGIERS (R) — Two more Muslim fundamentalists have been condemned to death for "terrorist" offences in Algeria, the official news agency APS said. A special court in Bouira, some 80 kilometres southeast Algiers, Tuesday sentenced Mabrouk Saoud to death for premeditated murder, using weapons of war and setting up a terrorist group. The agency said late Tuesday that Saoud killed a member of the para-military gendarmerie in May 1992. The court, one of three created to combat violence blamed on fundamentalists, also imposed a death sentence on Boujdema Chehawa, tried in his absence on similar charges, APS said. A total of 125 Islamic fundamentalists have now been condemned to death since a state of emergency was imposed on Algeria amid unrest in February 1992. Six men were executed early this year and eight have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. APS, without giving details, said the court also sentenced Saoud to death for another affair and for "helping terrorists." A third man was given a life sentence and a fourth acquitted. Both were charged with conspiracy against state security and belonging to a "terrorist" group.

Paris mayor to visit Beirut next week

PARIS (AP) — Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, will visit Beirut next week to sign a friendship and cooperation accord between the two capitals, Mr. Chirac's office said Wednesday. The accord would provide the framework for Paris to provide assistance in the reconstruction of war-damaged sections of central Beirut in the office said. Mr. Chirac's visit is scheduled for June 16-17.

Rebuilding Beirut offers opportunities

LONDON (AP) — Rebuilding Beirut after its destructive civil war offers opportunities for the British construction industry, Environment Minister Sir George Young said Tuesday. "There is a very strong will to make Beirut, once again, the service centre of the Middle East; we should be ready to participate in this opportunity," Mr. Young said after returning from the first ministerial mission to Lebanon since the 15-year civil war ended in October 1990. "My advice to British companies is to watch this area very closely, and keep abreast of developments," he said. Mr. Young said British businesses could help with the redevelopment of airports, hospitals, electricity generation and distribution, and the reconstruction of the city centre. While in Beirut, Mr. Young met with the president and prime minister of Lebanon, a development arranged by the British embassy, focusing on British construction industry capabilities, attracted at least 180 senior Lebanese politicians, businessmen and civil servants. The estimated cost of rebuilding Beirut is \$12.9 billion over the next decade, the Department of Environment said.

Assad holds talks with Lebanese speaker

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Tuesday discussed developments in Lebanon with Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri, officials said. Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, an expert on Lebanon, and Syrian parliament Speaker Abdul Kader Qaddoura attended the meeting. Officials gave no further details of the talks but diplomatic sources in Beirut say one of the largest ever operations against smuggling from Lebanon began on both sides of the border last month. Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where it has some 35,000 troops.

Czech ship given permission to approach Djibouti

PRAGUE (R) — Authorities in Djibouti will allow a Czech merchant vessel which rescued 32 shipwrecked Somalis to approach port after spending four days in the Gulf of Aden, the Czech news agency CTK reported. CTK quoted an official with the Czech marine authority as saying that the Otava, stranded 12 miles off Djibouti since last Friday with meagre supplies, would be allowed to come near the port. It was unclear whether the ship would be able to dock. The Czech official, Václav Dobes, said that French authorities intervened to help mediate in the situation following requests from the Czech government. France has a long-standing mission in Djibouti while the Czechs do not. Lloyd's shipping intelligence in London said the Somali's small vessel, Mr. Dobes said that the Mubarak left from the Somali port of Bossaso on May 19 and several days later became disabled in the Gulf of Aden. The Czech foreign ministry said that after the Otava crew rescued the Somalis, including two pregnant women and a child, they tried to land at Aden in Yemen but were denied access by the port authorities. The Otava, with a crew of 26, then sailed to the Djibouti where access was again denied, the ministry said. According to information given by the ship's captain Jindrich Kettner on Sunday, all of the Somalis have their passports and looked wealthy. The Otava, part of the small Czech merchant fleet, was on its way from the Black Sea to Bombay in India when it encountered the Somalis.

Britain urges quick progress in Middle East peace talks

LONDON (R) — Britain Wednesday urged all sides to the Arab-Israeli peace talks to make quick progress when they resume negotiations next week, saying failure to do so would encourage "mischief" from extremists opposed to peace.

"The new round in Washington is crucial because speed is essential," Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg told the opening session of a U.N.-sponsored conference. "The opportunity will not last forever. It might not last for very long."

Mr. Hogg, addressing an audience of Israeli, Palestinian and European politicians, academics and journalists gathered for the three-day conference on ways to promote Middle East peace, said extremists opposed to the peace process were "out to damage it."

"The longer the process fails to produce concrete progress for all to see, the greater is the potential for disillusion, the greater the opportunities for mischief," he said. He did not identify any

extremist group or party.

Mr. Hogg, who said the next round in the peace talks opening in Washington next Tuesday was likely to be a crucial one, welcomed the Israeli government's "evident will" to pursue peace. But he criticised Israel for failing to match this determination with measures to "lighten" the burden of the occupation "on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

He also reiterated British government criticism of the Israeli army for "excesses" in the occupied territories and said the economic situation there was "dire and deteriorating further," after Israel closed the borders at the end of March.

But Mr. Hogg added: "On the other side, the continued acts of violence against Israelis both in the occupied territories and in Israel have only served to damage the prospects for peace."

The foreign office minister said there were risks for all sides in pursuing peace but even greater risks if it failed.

UNICEF: Money crisis will halt Iraq relief

BAGHDAD (R) — The U.N. emergency programme for children in Iraq is about to collapse because no one has responded to an appeal for \$86 million, a spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Wednesday.

Enad Al Nima, UNICEF's information officer in Baghdad, said the organisation was keeping the programme alive for the moment by drawing on another budget but this could not last long.

The money in the emergency programme goes on basic health care, water and sanitation, nutrition and community development among the Kurds in northern Iraq.

"We made an appeal for \$86 million two and a half months ago and have received nothing. The situation is very grim. Nothing concrete has come out of the donors' meeting," Mr. Nima said.

Donor nations including the United States met in Geneva last week to discuss the funding crisis.

The UNICEF representative in Iraq, Thomas Elvill, will visit potential donor countries such as Holland, Finland, Sweden and Norway in a fresh attempt to raise funds, Mr. Nima said.

If the programme collapses, the effect would be greater on the water supply and sanitation systems, which have seriously deteriorated since the crisis over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq, under U.N. sanctions since the invasion, does not have the money to repair the systems. The United Nations offered to let it sell some oil but Iraq rejected the conditions.

"Without the emergency programme, water and sanitation would be very precarious. It is already in a very poor condition ... all our programmes are useless

and ineffective if the water and sanitation sectors are not fully operational," Mr. Nima said.

The Baghdad municipality says about six million cubic metres of waste water and sewage are being dumped in the River Tigris every day.

"From Baghdad to Basra, 450 kilometres to the south, the water is completely contaminated," Mr. Nima said.

"If you think of rural people depending on river water for their drinking needs, then you can imagine the size and enormity of the problem," he added.

In the Kurdish north, UNICEF was also responsible for supplying kerosene in winter. It paved roads for kerosene trucks and built hard shelters for homeless Kurds.

"Definitely in the north there is a very dire need to continue and carry out the programme and projects," Mr. Nima said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7711119	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Mt Heracle
17:45	Supercamp
18:15	Leclerc des Jans
19:00	News in French
19:15	Adams
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Coach
21:10	Quantom Leap
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the week
PRAYER TIMES	
03:50	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Doha
12:35	Dhuhr
18:15	'Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:00	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeh Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 622785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637430	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terassan Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625236	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623634 and 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Hanna Mansour	775197
Dr. Salim Al-'Ussud	649028
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Dr. Fakhr Taysir	853880
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Naroukhi pharmacy	626072
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsan pharmacy	637660
Najab pharmacy	847632
Water and Sewerage Company	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	636381
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	06-53200
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmezzani	664714
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	

Shmezzani Hospital	660131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musabir Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666123/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Infant, Al-Musabir	771012/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/6
Army, Marja	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	6622405/9
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)90323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)90260
Rn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hama Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)27275
Rn Al-Mafess Hospital	(02)24710
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Ibnul-Hakim Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akhal Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

05:30	Aden (RJ)
06:15	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30	Sanaa (RJ)
06:45	Dubai (RJ)
07:15	Athens (RJ)
07:30	London (RJ)
07:45	Berlin (RJ)
08:15	Madrid (RJ)
08:30	Jeddah (RJ)
08:45	New Delhi (RJ)
09:15	Riyadh (RJ)
09:30	Dhahran (RJ)
10:15	Baghdad (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

First stage progress of educational strategy to be published soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Wednesday announced that it will soon begin publishing the achievements of the first stage of the National Education Strategy in Jordan which ended December 1992.

The first stage, which lasted five years, focused on the basic education system in Jordan as well as improvements in science and technology education, teacher training, modernisation of the educational management system and linking secondary education with the requirements of the labour market, according to Wajih Al Farah, director of the ministry's Research and Educational Development Department.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said it would soon publish these achievements in a series as they are released from the ministry.

Petra quoted Dr. Farah as saying that in the recently completed 1992/93 scholastic year, there were 1,043,607 male and female students and 4,981 male and female teachers in Jordanian private and public schools.

Noting that the government or

public schools absorbed the majority of these students, Dr. Farah said that 75 per cent of the total number of students in the basic education level are in public schools, 16 per cent study at schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and nine per cent in private schools.

Dr. Farah said the rate of illiteracy in Jordan, according to a survey conducted by the Department of Statistics, stands at 16 per cent of the population.

The ministry, he added, was keen on pursuing efforts to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan in two stages: One enabling the illiterate to attain a fourth grade level of education; and two later raising them to the sixth grade.

Referring to education for students with special needs, Dr. Farah said that the ministry has opened 12 classes in government schools to provide special training to these children.

These classes, which were opened in the last five years, are being operated in cooperation with the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF).



GRADUATION CEREMONY: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony of the ninth class of students from the International Baccalaureate School. Princess Sarvath delivered an address in which she reviewed the development of the school since its establishment 12 years ago. She also treated the role of women in society and their rights in Islam. Islam, she said, has given women their true role in life and has achieved for them all their rights and has liberated them from slavery to which they were subjected in pre-Islamic days.

2 teachers invited on study-tour by Japan

AMMAN (J.T.) — One teacher and one administrator from the Ministry of Education have been invited by the Japanese government to participate in the secondary school educators' study-tour programme to be held from June 16-30 in Japan.

Sabah Al Nawaiseh, headmistress of Al Mazar High School and Jaber Abu Kaifeh, teacher of

Youssef Ibn Tashfeen High School, will participate in the programme intended to provide opportunities for secondary-school teachers and administrators from Asia, Oceania, North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa to observe first-hand the educational system, culture, and society of Japan.

Diarrhoea hits 28 in Ma'in

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 10 out of 29 people originally admitted to Madaba Government Hospital for treatment of severe diarrhoea and vomiting were still under medical care by Wednesday afternoon and tests were being conducted to determine if the cause of the outbreak may have been triggered by contaminated water.

Local health authorities in Madaba had reported that 25 people from the Ma'in district south of Madaba were admitted to the hospital Tuesday, but a hospital source Wednesday told the Jordan Times that four new cases were admitted Wednesday; one was a patient from Madaba and the rest were from Ma'in.

The general condition of the 10 remaining hospitalised patients is satisfactory; they are kept under constant care and surveillance, said the source.

The source expressed belief, however, that the cause of the vomiting and diarrhoea was due to contaminated water, although the hospital was still awaiting results of laboratory tests on samples of water from the district's springs.

Samples have been sent to the central laboratories in Amman

since Tuesday morning, but the results were still inconclusive Wednesday afternoon.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas was alerted soon after the outbreak of the reported cases and he visited the hospital to examine the patients and discuss the situation with the hospital staff.

The minister also supervised services offered to the patients and was assured of their satisfactory condition.

Jafar Humeiti, the hospital director, was earlier reported to have said that he did not rule out contaminated food to be the cause of these cases.

Health department sources in Madaba said that teams from the health services have conducted a search campaign at food shops and stores to find out if the food and the icecream they were selling were contaminated.

Health Ministry sources in Amman said Wednesday that the hospitals in Jordan normally deal with simple diarrhoea cases in the summer, especially among children, but noted that the sudden report of this rather large number of cases prompted the Health Ministry to launch an immediate investigation which is still ongoing.



During the Great Arab Revolt bedouins gave risk their lives in the battle against Ottoman forces, swear allegiance to Sharif Hussein and up their nomadic freedoms to gather their domination (file photo)

A model of Arab unity

By Jennifer Hamarnach
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Led by Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, the Sharif of Mecca, and spirited by their ideals of freedom and independence, bedouin tribes that had been divided by age-old feuds united in the Great Arab Revolt to liberate Arab lands from the Ottoman Empire.

In the harshness of these lands, disputes among nomadic people were frequent, extended and often fatal. Life for the bedouins was dependent on access to water, pasture lands, the number of camels they possessed and the size of their flocks of animals. Protecting such life-sustaining elements was the order of the day.

But the possibility of uniting these bedouins came, to light under the leadership of Sharif Hussein, who with his sons the Emirs Abdullah, Faisal, Ali and Zeid, sought not only to rid their lands of the Ottoman oppressors but to seek a united Arab Nation.

Among the most illustrious of bedouin leaders who made peace with his personal enemies at the request of Emir Faisal and joined in the revolt was Audeh Abu Tayih, leader of the Howeitat tribe.

About 50-years-old when he

was convinced to abandon his life of raiding for a greater mission, Audeh has been described as "the greatest popular hero of modern Arabian history, the most celebrated fighting man the desert had produced in four generations."

Audeh's influence was important in the Arabs' battle for Aqaba, site of a major Ottoman garrison and a strategically ideal base for operations against the Turks. The Arab forces under Emir Faisal recognised that for their attack on the port, the only suitable base from which to launch their operations was Wadi Sirhan. Audeh secured permission to use the area from its leader.

On the march towards Aqaba the Arab forces discovered that a blockhouse at Abu Al Lissen, situated on a direct line between Ma'an and Aqaba and which had been captured from the Turks, had been taken by the enemy who also massacred all the residents of a nearby Arab encampment.

In the face of the horror before them, the Arabs immediately besieged the blockhouse but were unable to dislodge the Turks.

By mid-day, in the sweltering heat, Audeh mounted his camel, shouted for his men to follow and with lightning speed charged towards the enemy.

Shocked at the outburst, Sharif Nasser, British Lieutenant T. E. Lawrence and about 400 other tribesmen immediately followed Audeh. Lawrence, in the frenzy of battle, accidentally shot his own camel and was thrown to the ground.

When he regained consciousness, the dust had settled, 300 Turks had been killed, another 150 taken prisoners, and only two Arab troops made the ultimate sacrifice of battle.

From the chaotic mass one bullet was said to have smashed Audeh's field-glasses, another pierced his revolver-holster, still others knicked his sword and tore up its leather sheath, and finally others killed two horses right from beneath him.

But the Howeitat chief emerged triumphant and was to carry on in the Arab fight against domination.

From a career of tribal feuding which cost him the life of all but one son, Audeh Abu Tayih had lost all hope for the ambitions of his tribe and seemed to view his life as a failure. But the tenets of the Arab Revolt called for an end to blood-feuds and a drive for a united Arab Nation.

It was to this call that Audeh Abu Tayih was compelled.

Jordan celebrates Army, Great Arab Revolt Day

AMMAN (Petra) — On the eve of Jordan's celebration of Army and Great Arab Revolt Day His Majesty King Hussein attended a special celebration held by the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Martyrs Monument in Amman.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah and Faisal, the King was accorded a 21-gun salute. The King recited verses of the Holy Koran at the monument and watered the "Tree of Life" in the yard.

King Hussein earlier presented medals to several senior army officers in recognition of their efforts and services.

The presentation of medals took place at Raghadan Palace and was attended by the Crown Prince, Prince Abdullah, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal Ben Mohammad and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the speakers of Parliament and other officials.

Later King Hussein and Prince Hassan attended a lunch hosted by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Abdul Hafez Marai Al Kaabneh at Al Hussein Youth City.

On the eve of the anniversary, King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of public and private organisations, representa-

tives of various unions and prominent individuals in the Kingdom.

In his cable to the King, Lieutenant General Kaabneh renewed the Armed Forces continued allegiance to the Hashemite Throne.

The Armed Forces chief also voiced deep appreciation for the King's generous offer of JD 70 million to be allocated from the Treasury to fund military housing projects.

The Ministry of Post and Communications announced Wednesday that it has put into circulation commemorative stamps on the anniversary of the Army and Great Arab Revolt Day.

Jordan has no organised crime — police

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Maj. General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan recently said organised crime has not and will not reach Jordan and the various forms of crime taking place in Jordan cannot be classified under the "organised crimes category."

He said crime in Jordan is under control and cannot be considered, under internationally-accepted standards, as organised crime.

Maj. Gen. Udwan, who was speaking at a meeting with the commander of the Royal War Academy and participants in a training course held there, said the public security personnel will remain protectors of the democratic march.

He warned against any attempts to undermine the security and stability of the country.



HOMEWARD-BOUND: 21-year-old Najah Saraira prepares to leave hospital Wednesday after successfully undergoing bone marrow transplant surgery at Al Khalidi Hospital in Amman last month. Dr. Abdullah Awidi Abbadi, professor of medicine haematology and oncology, led a team of specialists in the operation, reported to be the first ever to have been carried out at a private hospital in Jordan. Ms. Saraira had been suffering from severe plastic anaemia and coagulation bleeding before the operations on May 5, said Dr. Abbadi. He said he had to extract bone marrow from Ms. Saraira's 17-year-old sister to carry out the transplant. Thirteen days after the surgery, the implanted marrow started to function and heal the patient, said Dr. Abbadi. Noting that the first such operation was conducted at the Jordan University Hospital in 1987, Dr. Abbadi said that operations of this sort are extremely expensive abroad. Expenses for hospital and surgery paid in Jordan for this operation, he added, accounted only for one-fifth the cost charged in hospitals in advanced countries.

Jordanian, Indian specialists to review fertiliser production

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fertiliser specialists from India and Jordan will gather here on June 13 for a five-day seminar on the manufacture of fertilisers and participants are expected to review 17 working papers.

The meeting has been organised by a joint committee representing the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC). A committee spokesman said one of the aims of the meeting is to benefit from the expertise and experience of the Indian experts and workers in this industry.

India is the main importer of Jordanian potash, phosphate and fertilisers.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Lebanese artist Shukrallah Fatouh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works by more than 40 plastic artists from Iraq at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Scenes from Palestine" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mariame Naaroubat at the British Council.

Conservationists recommend forming advisory council

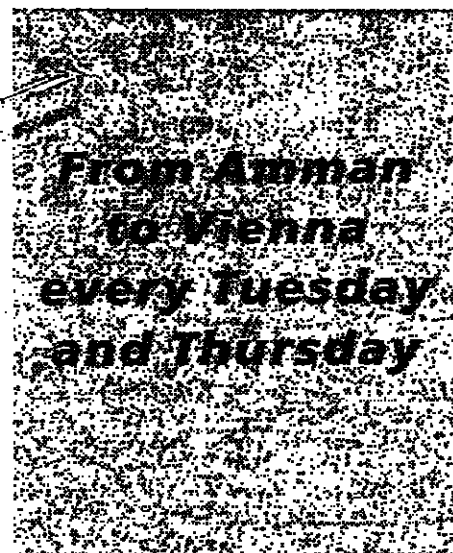
By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Delegation to a four-day meeting on the conservation of nature wound up their deliberations in Amman Wednesday by recommending the creation of an advisory council to offer services to the countries of North Africa and western Asia after criticism was raised.

The recommendation will now go to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

(IUCN), which organised the meeting attended by delegates from Arab and foreign countries, according to Anis Muasher, president of the Royal Society of the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The delegates, who examined a wide range of topics related to the conservation of nature, criticised the IUCN for not doing enough for North Africa and the Middle East, said Dr. Muasher in a statement to the Jordan Times following the conclusion of the meetings.



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HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Japan's royal family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Japanese Emperor Akihito to congratulate him on the wedding of Crown Prince Naruhito. King Hussein wished the wedding happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein sent another cable to Portuguese President Mario Soares congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government of Portugal's national day.

King condoles Pakistani president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable to Pakistani President Gulam Ishaq Khan condoling him over the death of Pakistani peace-keeping troops in Somalia.

Jordan Times

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No need to panic

UNDUE ANXIETY has developed over the status of the Jordanian-Israeli track within the ongoing bilateral peace talks scheduled to resume in Washington in mid-June. Many observers have interpreted the near complete agreement between Jordan and Israel on the agenda of their talks as an imminent sign that Jordan will outpace the other Arab parties in concluding a peace treaty with the Jewish state. But the outcry about where Jordan has reached in its peace negotiations with Israel is obviously unjustified.

Not that there is any or should there be any complexes about reaching an agreement with Israel since that is what the peace parleys are all about. Given the fact that Jordan is permanently committed to achieving comprehensive peace with Israel on all fronts, all the confusion, innocent or deliberate, about the ultimate Jordanian intentions must lay to rest also permanently.

But this is not the whole story. Even if Jordan and Israel agree on a mutual agenda or a framework for their future talks, there can be no doubt that any such accord is but the beginning of the long and tortuous road towards full and lasting peace treaty. It is one thing, and indeed a very small thing, to agree on an agenda and quite another to reach an accord. Every step of the way during the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations on the basis of the agreed upon agenda will be a steep uphill battle that is fraught with dangers and hardships. We in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World must not jump into conclusions before the actual bargaining between the two sides have come to fruition. There is every hope that the Jordanian-Palestinian track will bear fruit and we need not be defensive or embarrassed about any such positive development. Since the country is committed to make any possible accord with Israel contingent on similar successes on other fronts, there can be no justifications for uncalled for phobias or circuitous reactions from any quarter. Hopefully all the parties attending the tenth round of bilateral peace talks in Washington will register real progress in their negotiations. All sides agree that the Palestinian-Israeli talks are the most pressing and critical because without progress on that track not much progress can be expected on the other fronts. Jordan is totally and unequivocally supportive of the earliest resolution of the Palestinian conflict on the basis of U.N. Resolution 242. This posture cannot be more emphasised than it has already been. Without meaningful movement on the Palestinian question, there can never be movement on the Jordanian side.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said Wednesday that Jordan is extending a friendly and brotherly hand to the other Arab countries in a true spirit of reconciliation. This country firmly believes that the Arab Nation must be a united family and will triumph over all moves aiming at disintegrating the Arab world. The daily, We seek reconciliation with these Arabs who own the power of their own decision-making and who can take steps towards us as we do towards them, added the daily. But we have little hope of having reconciliation with those who possess no willpower or have no authority to make their own decisions, said the paper. It said that the Arab World is still plagued by certain elements which tend to pour malice and hatred on the Arabs and who advocate divisions rather than unity. We are aware of these elements which oppose any Arab moves towards reconciliation with Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, Iraq and Mauritania, but we also realise that the official of the lowest-rank, in the smallest American consulate in the Arab World, has more power in taking decisions for some Arabs than the rulers of those Arabs, charged the daily. It warned that those divisionist elements were trying desperately to perpetuate divisions among Arab states although, it said, their actions are bound to end up in total failure.

WHETHER BOYCOTT regulations against firms trading with Israel are justified by the Arabs or maintained, said a writer in Al Ra'i, it makes no difference to the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mahmoud Rimawi said that Washington has been exerting pressure on the Arab Gulf states to end the boycott rules imposed on foreign firms dealing with the Jewish state, but he said that Washington has not moved an inch towards ending the reasons for maintaining these regulations. This is a clear evidence that the United States is absolutely biased towards Israel at a time when it continues to claim that it is sponsoring and guaranteeing peace between the Arabs and Israel, charged Rimawi. What is expected of a peace mediator is to remain neutral or at least abstain from any actions that would manifest bias, he added. The American pressures on the Arabs to end the boycott can therefore be considered as a way to undermine rather than safeguard the peace process since Washington is giving preference to its American commercial interests over the cause of a just peace, said the writer. In order to end the conflict, he added, the United States should search for a means to end the causes of the conflict and not to deal with its side issues.

Where do Arabs stand in the 'new world order'?

By Hisham Dajani

In the aftermath of the far-reaching changes in the world in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the question is being asked: Is there really a "new world order"? And in the Arab World they ask: "If a new world order does indeed exist, what place do the Arabs occupy in it?"

Is this "new" order in fact any different from the old order which took shape after World War II? The U.S. is still a superpower whose main strategic goals have hardly changed: it still aims, as before, at world hegemony. All that has happened following the collapse of the Soviet Union is that the world has ceased to be "bipolar"; now the U.S. is the only superpower.

But some believe that the very nature of international relations presupposes the existence of contradictions and conflicts between great powers, or axes. A unipolar world, in short, cannot be a permanent international condition. Even now, new polarisations are beginning to emerge and new powers are seeking to carve out positions for themselves in the international arena, and to free themselves from American hegemony. The new world, they assert, will be multi-polar.

This view becomes even more persuasive when one weighs the potential of the following four powers with their competing and sometimes even contradictory political and economic interests.

1. The Russian Federation has all the attributes of a superpower: nuclear arms, a large industrial base, abundant natural resources and great scientific capabilities. It should be able to overcome most of its present difficulties within a decade or two. Russia may very well be dependent on western financial and economic support for the next few years, but it will never become a client of the West or the U.S. Once it has recovered its strength Russia will still have its own individual interests in Asia, Europe and the Third World.

2. Japan is currently striving to play a more independent political role and to become the dominant power in South East Asia and the Far East. It is noteworthy that it has shown more independence since the disappearance of the Soviet threat; now it no longer needs to shelter under the American military umbrella. We can expect to see Japan playing an ever greater political role; in practice this means greater competition between Japan on the one hand and the U.S. and Europe on the other.

3. China, with its enormous human and natural resources, together with its military capabilities, is likely to develop its economic strength over the coming years and to play a much more important international role.

4. A unified Europe could take advantage of its old civilisation and current economic, military and political might, as well as its worldwide network of close ties with other countries.

There are also India, the Muslim republics of Central Asia and Iran in Asia, and Brazil and Argentina in South America. These countries are looking forward to developing their potential and exercising power in the international arena too.

What we can certainly expect is that the U.S. will try to obstruct the development of competing power blocs, and will endeavour to keep the world under its sole control. During the Gulf crisis the U.S. obliged the four powers listed above to support its actions against Iraq, despite the fact that China, Russia, Japan and even some of the European countries had no interest in the war and despite the outcry against U.S. policy in many of the countries concerned.

The U.S. foreign agenda

It is relevant to mention here two reports drawn up by the Pentagon. On Feb. 18, 1991, the *Herald Tribune* published a report which had been prepared by a group of experts inside the Pentagon under Admiral Jerna, an assistant to the chief of staff, General Colin Powell. After a detailed study of possible scenarios for war, the report made the following recommendations:

1. The Russian war machine should be dismantled in order to remove the threat that it posed to Europe.

2. U.S. nuclear missiles should continue to be targeted against the Russian nuclear arsenal.

3. The U.S. should try to obstruct the emergence of any independent security apparatus in Europe.

4. The U.S. must continue to contribute to regional security structures, and should seek to prevent the emergence of any powerful regional forces.

5. The U.S. must be alert to the risk that more prominent roles for its European and Far Eastern allies might breed instability.

On March 8, 1992, the *New York Times* published a report prepared by a Department of Defence committee headed by Paul D. Wolfowitz, an assistant secretary for political affairs. The committee also included officials from the National Security Council and their report aimed to define the main political thrust of U.S. foreign policy over the next few years, bearing in mind the following factors:

— The need to remain the only superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union; to prevent the emergence of any competing superpower in the Far East; to prevent its allies from opposing its hegemony; to retain "decisive power"; and to maintain a capability to intervene anywhere in the world.

— The main foreign policy aim should be to convince potential competitors not to seek greater international roles; the armed forces should be strong enough to deter any country or group of countries from attempting to challenge U.S. hegemony or the

current economic status quo.

— It should be clearly understood that the new world order was guaranteed by the U.S. regardless of cost, and that to this end the U.S. should be prepared to operate alone, if need be, whenever crises required a prompt response.

— The U.S. should remain conscious of Russian nationalist and expansionist sentiments and should remain alert against any Russian moves to annex independent states.

The report provoked an angry response, particularly in Europe. Questions were also asked about the motives behind its publication. The State Department has tended to play down its importance and to deny that it had any official status.

And perhaps the picture is not so stark. Those who were the U.S.'s closest allies yesterday have now become its most dangerous competitors. They — in particular the Europeans — are not afraid to promote their own interests over those of the U.S. Furthermore, the Americans are conscious that they can no longer rely on military superiority alone in their efforts to tackle international problems.

None of the four powers mentioned above view military confrontation as a standard policy option. But they will all certainly stand up to the U.S. in the areas of real competition: the field of scientific and technical progress, and the fields of trade and economic development. In these fields the U.S. is already at a disadvantage, with powerful rivals in the

European Community and Japan in particular. This competition will lead ultimately to conflicts of interest. To date the competition is still under control but for how long can this continue?

Regardless of the recommendations of the Pentagon policy-makers, the U.S. cannot continue playing the role of world policeman indefinitely, since this imposes too heavy a burden on its economy. The Gulf states, Germany and Japan may have agreed to meet most of the costs of Desert Storm, but they will not necessarily be ready to meet such costs again.

The Arabs must learn from the past

But what about the place of the Arabs in the new world order and in the current international environment? The current situation in the Arab World cannot encourage us to look forward to the future with much optimism. But that does not mean that the Arabs must abandon hope. The Arabs and Muslims together comprise a large proportion of the population of the South, which contains two-thirds of the world's population. They can gain a say in that sphere, and even take upon themselves the task of reviving it.

Some believe that the Arabs have lost prestige following the collapse of the USSR and the defeat of Iraq. This might well be true as regards the latter, but is certainly not the case as regards the former. The USSR was a friend, certainly, but not an ally

even of the radical Arab regimes. The Arabs committed a serious mistake by allowing themselves to be sucked into the East-West conflict. This was Nasser's biggest blunder. The USSR gained little from its friendship with the Arabs, while the U.S. lost nothing as a result of its bias towards Israel.

But the defeat of Iraq was a catastrophe for the Arabs. The Arab world lost the economic and military might of Iraq. Foreign forces returned to the Gulf, and reimposed the system of direct military protection which the Arabs had thought they had rid themselves of in the early 1970s. And the Arabs' oil, or most of it, is no longer a source of strategic might for them.

It cannot be denied that most Arabs sympathised with Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people before, during and even after the Gulf war. This reflected the poverty and the deprivation amongst which they live, and their hatred of the reactionary Arab rulers who fritter away fortunes while poor Arabs have nothing. Western support for these rulers, whatever the justification, compounded this sense of injustice.

But these spontaneous feelings must not be allowed to mislead us. The truth is that the Arabs, in their search for development, would never accept Saddam Hussein's style. He is a mere symbol, and an ugly symbol, of foolish dictatorship. He is an enemy of his own people. Arabs do not seek development through despotism. The correct road to development can only be found in freedom. Needless to say a multipolar world will be more favourable for the Arabs. They must adjust themselves to the new political realities.

The Arab Nation is not in suspended animation and it will never remain in limbo. The Arabs are a great nation, with a long history, established traditions and an ancient civilisation. Their civilisation and spiritual values will lead them to greatness again. Their common heritage runs much deeper than any present, transient, differences.

The Arab Nation faces dangerous challenges today: Israel's increasing power, underdevelopment, divisions and American hegemony. Arab thinkers, scholars and intellectuals, and Arab leaders in particular, must give serious thought to how they can face these challenges. If solidarity is the only course open to them for the moment, let them pursue this option seriously. Inter-Arab reconciliation, on a new basis, is a goal towards which they should now urgently strive.

Dr. Hisham Dajani is a Palestinian researcher based in Damascus. The article is reprinted from *Middle East International*.

M. KAHIL



Serbia's Milosevic tightens grip

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

BELGRADE — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is steadily tightening his hold on power despite policies that have turned many of his compatriots into paupers and their country into an international pariah.

With political skill that inspires awe even among his fiercest critics, the 51-year-old former communist has outmanoeuvred one potential rival after another, watched his opposition fragment and managed to shift the blame for his country's growing economic and political problems on to others.

"Whichever way you look at him, he is truly remarkable," said one European diplomat. "Few leaders have managed to drag their country so low in such a short time. Yet here he is, in sole command and still quite popular."

Mr. Milosevic consolidated his formidable grip on power on June 1, when deputies of his Serbian Socialist Party in the rump Yugoslav parliament teamed up with the Serbian radical party to oust federal President Dobrica Cosic in a no-confidence vote.

Five months earlier, a vote of no-confidence by the same parliamentary line-up removed Milan Panic, an outspoken Milosevic critic, as prime minister of rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro.

Mr. Panic, a Belgrade-born Californian millionaire, had accused Mr. Milosevic of masterminding the war in neighbouring Bosnia.

Mr. Cosic, a 72-year-old author hand-picked by Mr. Milosevic for the federal presidency, had begun to develop ideas of his own when his mentor stopped him short. "The president of Serbia could no longer bear my opposition to his policy and despotic self-will," Mr. Cosic said after his removal. He termed Mr. Milosevic "an ideological student of Stalin ... with a passionate love for power."

Even his critics say Mr. Milosevic has developed the exercise of power into an art form. "He is becoming stronger every day," said Milos Vasic, a commentator for the Belgrade weekly *Vreme*. "He is on the threshold of uncontested total power."

Yugoslavia's political opposition, long lacking cohesion, is no threat to Mr. Milosevic, it seems. Its most prominent leader, Vuk Draskovic, is in jail after leading an abortive anti-government protest which led to bloody clashes between demonstrators and police last week.

No opposition leader has so far managed to channel popular discontent with increasingly miserable living conditions into a grassroots anti-Milosevic movement.

After more than a year of economic sanctions, Serbs still tend to blame the resulting hardships not on Mr. Milosevic, whose policies prompted the embargo, but on the West and a web of international conspiracies against the Serbian nation.

On May 31 last year, the United Nations' brand of all trade with Serbia and Montenegro, froze Yugoslav assets abroad, cut air links and even barred Yugoslavs from sports and cultural exchanges. The embargo was tightened further last April.

It was imposed to punish Mr. Milosevic and his government for fanning ethnic hatred which led to civil war in Bosnia and the largest movement of refugees in Europe since World War II.

As a result of the sanctions, lack of imported raw materials forced factories throughout what remains of Yugoslavia to close.

Almost two thirds of the work force of three million are unemployed or on paid leave. Industrial output does not even come near to paying for unemployment benefits or pensions, now less than 20 a month in a country where a loaf of bread costs around \$1.

As Bosnia burns, more bluster, impotence and vanity

By Sadruddin Aga Khan

GENEVA — Five smiling foreign ministers faced the world's cameras on May 22 and claimed that the "Russian" plan for Bosnia promised a process that would lead to a just peace. Yet recent days have seen some of the fiercest fighting of the war. So much for Balkan promises.

In an era when the news media seem to drive so much of what we perceive, governments feel an obligation to demonstrate a high-minded commitment to stopping other people's genocides.

Yet at the level of effective diplomacy, backed by a threat of credible intervention, a vastly different approach prevails: ineffectual bluster together with dissembling inaction — unless the military odds are overwhelming and the perceived national interest absolute.

So Bosnia is dying: Muslim-Christian relations are being further jeopardised; and in a critical corner of Europe the match is being set to ancient enmities that go much beyond beleaguered Bosnia.

Above all, our brave claims to a post-cold war world of democracy and respect for human rights have been exposed as politicians' vanity. The world, seen through Bosnian eyes, is uglier than ever. As ethnic groups confront each other, new walls are replacing Berlin's.

The latest "peace plan" combines the maximum of humanitarian concern — rhetorical support for "safe havens" — with the minimum military and political exposure. There will still be inadequate numbers of U.N. troops, now apparently with some aerial protection but still no such security for civilians. And there is certainly no process, political or military, to recover Bosnian civilians' lost homes, even on the betrayal terms contemplated by the Vance-Owen plan — which has now been

torpedoed by the very Serbs it so abjectly appeased. Meanwhile, Europe is largely closing its door to refugees. So Bosnians are stranded in a diplomatic no-man's-land.

The latest plan offers no new political or military impetus to correct the balance of the war. It is, rather, a de facto legitimisation of its toll: an almost empty promise of safety for its displaced victims in besieged and shelled Bosnian towns, and a new partnership with the perpetrator of the push for a greater Serbia and of "ethnic cleansing."

Slobodan Milosevic's cooperation is the linchpin of the Russian scheme. Mr. Milosevic is now the man in the region with whom Russian and allied governments allege they can do business. In Mr. Milosevic they believe they have a tough-minded pragmatist who wants Serbia to be able to take its place as a good citizen of Europe, and so is anxious to end the uncivil slaughter of Bosnian Muslims — hence his imminent readmission to the club of world leaders.

Might makes right once again. And "ethnic cleansing" goes on. Regional conflicts of the Yugoslav kind are generally agreed to be the likely model of future wars. Yet allied soldiers, and more particularly their civi-

lians, can make to public consciences; a response to action without much risk.

But the U.N.'s inadequacy could not be clearer. It is not just that U.N. soldiers are too few, too lightly armed and lack a proper mandate to fight back. They have become hostages. The British and French opposed stronger deterrent action against the Serbs for fear of provoking attacks on their U.N. peacekeeping contingents — thus negating their very purpose and becoming an obstacle to peacemaking.

And the U.N., after decades of dodging the diplomatic bullets of the cold war and learning to live by spitting every difference between its member states, has lost the ability to choose between right and wrong. U.N. officials too myopically reduce Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian atrocities to some ahistorical parity. With the flaccid organisational structures of the U.N., there is (other than the heroic individual U.N. civilians and soldiers providing relief under conditions of extreme danger) no focus on the real causes of the conflict or on viable solutions. Rather, evenhandedness and the U.N.'s own institutional priorities too often replace rigor.

So now Bosnia is in danger of standing as a graveyard epitaph to our late 20th-century diplomacy and military inadequacies: It shows a White House no more capable than the Kremlin is of living up to the post-cold war promise, and a Europe at its core as cynical and divided as at any time in recent history. For our sake, as much as for the Bosnians, we can ill-afford such callous complacency.

The writer was United Nations high commissioner for refugees from 1965 to 1977. The article is reprinted from the *Herald Tribune*.

"The U.N.'s inadequacy could not be clearer. It is not just that the U.N. soldiers are too few, too lightly armed and lack a proper mandate to fight back. They have become hostages."

President Milosevic, once a rather minor communist apparatchik, has been toiling away at his scheme for a greater Serbia since Tito's death. It seems that he, more than anyone, provoked the political explosion that blew Yugoslavia apart. Serbia was no aggrieved party seeking to redress the rights of its minorities once other Yugoslav republics declared independence. Rather, an ultranationalist drive for a greater Serbia ruined the atmosphere of relative tolerance and led to the ultimate break-up. Not that there are political innocents in this war. Croatia's expansionists also have much to answer for.

A challenge to the spirit and the mind

By Ica Wabbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — In harmony yet so different in style, the works of the two well-established painters Nawal Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa are adorning the spacious white exhibiting room of the French Cultural Centre where they will be on display until June 25, 1993.

The common trait, and it will stop there, is the colour

black both artists use generously and that gives character to their paintings. Manner and thematic are different though, distinguishing and testifying to the individuality of each painter.

Ms. Kattan's gouaches, at first look, make you feel you are between the vertical walls of narrow streets, in shadowed corners or in an outer space landscape.

Geometrical patterns are

vigorously intersecting, showing an obsession with angles and the desire to tame lines, make them obey. Yet, at times, their order is delicately troubled by less disciplined shapes, usually looped lines, ticks or splashes exploding in an outburst of passion and rebellion against order, confinement.

The mostly dark colours do not inspire gloom. Rather they seem to create heavy oriental brocaded patterns or secretive hiding places in a far-away world governed by laws of its own.

Defying gravity, eddies and spirals swirl around straight lines and surge upwards towards infinity.

Brick red, purple, green of different shades, pink and black are the colours the artist uses mostly.

The black helps set off the image, creating a false impression of collage, superimposition.

At times, recreating the primordial era of genesis, meteorological apparitions or undefined cosmic matter are created by deftly applied strokes of dark blue, black or ochre.

Vast expanses — desert, wavy oceans, snowy surfaces (the pole?) or green pastures — are present in Ms. Kattan's works. Even the small-size paintings give the impression of immensity, of lands untouched by human presence.

The colours complement each other, creating flashes or beams of light coming from high above, enlightening, caressing, giving life.

Abstract yet very expressive, the paintings have a life of their own. The colours are modern, they interconnect to create depth and movement.

White slashes add a few dotted lines give playful touches to the subtle, philosophical paintings.

While feeling lost in the immensity of the paintings, you have the feeling you have lifted off a corner of the mystery of Earth creation.

Ms. Tabbaa's works are grouped by the artist as: China ink drawings, collage and oil pastel and etchings on oil

pastel. Delicate and almost miniature, her paintings tend to come in sets, each frame seeming an extension of the one next to it, almost forming compositions and enhancing each other's perfection.

Full of symbolism or mystic signs, Ms. Tabbaa's works transpose you in the world of ancient civilisations (oriental, Incan, Mayan, African) and leave you puzzled as to the meaning they convey.

The China inks, works of brush strokes, are neatly framed in windows and panels.

A group of four slender vertical panels, titled *Playing For Time*, contain a world of signs, from geometrical to floral, from mechanical to human.

You can find in the ink group the Corinthian capitals (or perhaps the ram's horns), the African lines and masks, the Mayan symbol of the sun, the spiral (symbol of infinity) of a nautilus or that of a slithering snake (symbol of wisdom and beauty) and anything imagination allows you to conceive.

The black and white contrast confers elegance to the highly decorative bands rendered spontaneously by the brush.

The inks also include a group, the artist named *Teleological Purpose*, which has enlaid several stripes that can be taken for woven rugs or prints on Indian batik. White squares on a black background and black strips on a white background create a contrast both intellectually stimulating and aesthetically relaxing.

Exquisite and even more delicate than the inks, the etchings were done to satisfy an artist's yearning for print-making.

"Not having the facilities of a print maker's studio, I derived pleasure from creating my own impressions of aquatint, drypoint and mezzotints, which I find among the finest media in art," avers the artist.

For the etchings, Ms. Tabbaa used dentists' tools to ensure precision and finesse.



China ink on paper by Dodi Tabbaa

Their minute details and myriads of painstakingly drawn lines betray the skill, patience and passion of the artist.

The coloured inks and pastels are tiny, delicate and exhilarating. Blues, yellows and blacks, but also coral reds, purples, brinks, pinks and greens vie for the eye, come to life on their own and joyfully entertain.

Two particularly beautiful works, ink and tempera on paper, are *Feet* and *Modern Prints*. One black, brown and ochre, the other black, blue and green, they group 16 rectangles each. The same symbolism of the inks is present, but the overall look is that of very fashionable prints highlighted skilfully by white strokes.

A group of individual (not paired like the rest) etchings on oil pastel is more philosophical in nature; the artist seems to be searching for the meaning of life in the nebulous spirals, domed cupolas, arrows and geometrical figures coupled to create the indefinable world of "A mystical calm", as some are called.

In the group, colours amazingly combine to create a magical world of voluptuous promises; images of stained-glass windows or exude symbolic and hidden meanings.

An innovative last group is that of collage and oil pastel. An explosion of colours combined with ripped photographs of the artist's own works combine to give "an ethereal, porcelain effect."

A celebration of joy and life, the paintings are challenging to the spirit and the mind.

Diary

DEMOCRATIC ON A WHIM: The Islamic Action Front (IAF) have had several unsuccessful fact-finding meetings with senior officials to determine whether there is going to be any amendment to the current elections law. Their efforts have borne little fruit save for some joke-telling, the result of which was picked up by the *Diary*. In a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, the head of the IAF, Ishaq Farhan, was reportedly listening to Dr. Majali reiterating his commitment to democracy when he told him: "Dr. Majali we know about your democratic side as well as your dictatorial one," sources retold the *Diary*. To which, Dr. Majali, in a show of diplomacy, responded: "No, I am very democratic, but I do handle some issues with firmness and decisiveness." The storyteller laughed and pointed out that the IAF leadership came out of the meeting feeling more convinced about the new premier's negotiating ability but less assured that the decisions will go their way.

ON ANOTHER FRONT: One of the IAF's leaders chanced upon former Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber in an informal gathering. Probably thinking that he could keep the influential movement's top echelons busy with news of the peace process until such a time when the new premier decides to be "firm and decisive" on the elections law, he approached him with a question, hoping that former officials would be quick to divulge information once they are replaced in the Cabinet. He only asked him a general question leaving the field wide for any answer. "So what is the meaning of full partner after all?" he asked nonchalantly, to which Dr. Abu Jaber retorted: "By God, if you know that, then I know too," and smiled.

BUT TAKING MATTERS INTO HAND: The IAF was not going to allow the official negotiations to do everything of their own. When the American Ambassador Roger Harrison had that much-publicised meeting with the IAF's leaders, Dr. Ishaq Farhan reportedly asked him why President Bill Clinton told Jordan's ambassador to Washington that he was happy with the democratic development in the Kingdom but was not happy with forces that are utilising democracy for their own furtherment. Ambassador Harrison reportedly responded by pointing out that the U.S. president was talking about "some elements." "What do you mean by some?" Dr. Farhan immediately asked. "Are you trying to tell me that while you allow some elements on 42nd Street to protest against democracy, you are not comfortable about a greengrocer on Saadeh (happiness) Street here who also speaks against it?" We are sure that that wasn't what Mr. Clinton meant and Dr. Farhan and Mr. Harrison knew it.

JUST SO WE WOULD NOT BE ACCUSED OF BEING ONE-SIDED: Premier Majali knew of his impending appointment earlier than the rumour mill started carrying it around. Well, of course he would. Although he hid it from everyone, the secret leaked through the most unconventional routes. Dr. Majali, knowing that after he assumed his post would have very little time for mundane tasks like shopping, visited his favourite clothing shop and bought a number of suits. The shopowner did not tell, but the shop was the Mecca for a number of hopefuls who went looking for a black suit just in case they got lucky. And they told others who also started visiting the shop for hope of getting closer to the race for the Cabinet posts. Sure enough, they met many who, we later found out, had become ministers. The hopefuls, alas, are stuck with the unused suits and the discrete shopowner is now praying that the time for the next government reshuffle would come soon so that his business could pick up again. Dr. Majali reportedly bought six suits, but at least he was making a guaranteed investment.

'ARABI, ARABI': The singer is Lebanese, the place is Junia, north of Beirut, and lyrics of the song celebrate His Majesty King Hussein as a true pan-Arab leader. To the ears of the about 200 Jordanians who spent their evening at the Carte Blanche Night Club, the song was more than music. The song, however, seemed to have irritated a Kuwaiti national who tried to protest the song and criticise the Jordanian leadership for what he reportedly described as its anti-Kuwaiti stand during the Gulf war. That, he later found out, was a big mistake. Not only did he find himself up against the Jordanian audience who silenced him the minute he started talking, but he was also severely put down by the singer, Milhem Barakat, who called him a politician who had been purposely planted in the crowd. Again praising Jordan, Mr. Milhem said: "When I go to Amman, Jordanians sing for Lebanon," he reportedly told his fans. While the story was retold here in a meeting for organisers of this year's Jerash Festival, Mr. Milhem's name was absent from the list of proposed participants in this year's programme. A sneak peek at the programme, while we are on the subject, would indicate that Cheb Khaled — you know the di di di guy... Ragheb Alameh — women, control yourselves — and the ultimate intellectual Shukh Imam — may crown the festival this year. We certainly hope so.

Nermeen Murad

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking — H.L. Mencken, U.S. critic (1876-1956).

It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it — anonymous.

Eating words has never given me indigestion — Sir Winston Churchill, British statesman (1874-1965).

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it — George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born writer (1856-1950).

While we are postponing, life speeds by — Marcus Seneca, Roman scholar (about 54 B.C. — 49 A.D.).

The emotions may be endless. The more we express them, the more we may have to express them (E.M. Forster, English novelist (1879-1970)).

With the zeal of a pilgrim

To The Ends Of The Earth: The Hunt For The Jackal

By David Yallop
Jonathan Cape, London 1993, £17.99

David Yallop is a classic product of British Sunday journalism. Which sees the public world as a round of scandals, cover-ups and mysteries just waiting to be rooted out. In the past he has turned his talent to exposing intrigue at the Vatican and iniquity in the British legal system. To such a mind, the even murkier terrain of Middle Eastern politics must have been tempting.

And so Yallop set off some ten years ago for the Holy Land. His goal: "To track down the infamous Carlos, the world's most wanted man," the Venezuelan master of disguises who in the name of Palestine blazed a trail of violent outrage across Europe, only to vanish along with the singular philosophy of terror that had spawned him. The writer approached his task with the zeal of the Christian pilgrim in search of relics, wandering from Milan to Algiers to Tripoli to Sabra and Shatila to Paris to Vienna to Caracas to Jerusalem to the bowels of Gaza and on to Damascus. Across this long itinerary he recorded an even lengthier series of interviews with all the usual suspects.

He emerges a decade on, a little naive but just as bewildered, with a hefty manuscript that accurately reflects his travails and boasts a list of acknowledgments that would pack the Albert Hall.

To the Ends Of The Earth he promises to take us, and so his book does, with occasional stops at the ends of patience and credulity.

Does he find Carlos? No, he does better and finds two Carloses, the first of whom, he explains across several hundred pages, was nothing but a well-briefed Syrian agent whose mission was to use the famous British writer to discredit Yasser Arafat. The second one, briefly encountered, mole-like, in a Damascus park, is the real Illich Ramirez Sanchez, or so we are assured.

In between we have several overlapping narratives, which a clever editor might mercifully have sorted into different books. One describes Carlos' evolution from pampered son of a leftist Venezuelan lawyer to hardened international outlaw. His exploits are described in all their sad detail, from the botched murder of the Zionist chairman of Marks and Spencer in 1973 to the carnage of the Paris drugstore bombing to the OPEC kidnap and the Entebbe hijack to a spate of later killings carried out, we are told, with the sole purpose of springing his girlfriend from the custody of the French police. Yallop is skilled at recounting these sordid events, and at revealing some of the truth behind the Carlos myth, the truth that his

BOOK REVIEWS

"success" came in spite of numerous and often farcical blunders.

Another narrative follows the course of the author's researches. It is here that we stray most annoyingly from the task at hand. The long lapses, the waits in hotels, the muddling ministries of information, the troubles with translators are all delivered with self-flagellating thoroughness. One learns to cringe at the words "my research has revealed that ..." which nearly always prefaces some well known fact, such as that the Lebanese Phalange colluded with Israel, or that the U.S. Air Force was hoping to hit Colonel Muammar Qadhafi when it bombed Tripoli.

The third narrative describes Yallop's spiritual pilgrimage to the sources of the Middle East conflict. He candidly admits that once upon a time he believed in the myth of an Israeli David holding out bravely against an Arab Goliath. It is his first-hand experience of the searing brutality of occupied Gaza that changes his mind, and incidentally inspires the most impassioned writing in the book.

The straightforward reporting comes as a relief after sentences such as this: "Safe house after the house collapsed, like a house of cards." The book is also littered with tell-tale errors. The Iranian president is rendered as Mr. Raf Sanjani, Kamal Adham as Kamal Khaddam. One character was born in a place called Al Quds, "east of Jerusalem". The birthplace is, like the author, just slightly off target: Al-Quds is the Holy City.

At one point, Yallop ingratiates himself with an Arab source by saying he hopes to use the Carlos story in order to deliver a strong message about the plight of Palestinians to a Western audience. This indiscretion explains some of the disjointedness of the book. It does not excuse either its wider conclusions or the sloppy editing — Middle East International.

The Supreme Warrior

Habib Bourguiba Of Tunisia: The Tragedy Of Longevity

By Derek Hopwood
MacMillan, London 1992, £40

De Gaulle once said of Habib Bourguiba, the father of modern Tunisia, that his country was too small for a man of such ambition. It was not meant as a compliment. But if Tunisia's "combatant supreme" was, as Derek Hopwood paints him, a monomaniacal and vindictive dictator during his three decades in power, history will nevertheless be kinder to him than to the many other comic-strip leaders

thrown up by the great post-war anti-colonialist wave.

Like the contemporaries he long outlasted — e.g. Mao, Nasser, Tito — Bourguiba successfully harnessed courage, vision, a skill at oratory and timely ruthlessness to an unquenchable will to dominate. But, perhaps because he trained in law and philosophy rather than as a soldier, he never succumbed to the rigours of ideology. A nationalist, indeed, but without a chip on his shoulder about the outside world. A tyrant, certainly, but with a sense of proportion. Bourguiba had the patience to invest great energy in education and in the emancipation of women rather than in utopian projects for instant industrialisation.

Bourguiba was a man of character, and also very much a man of his times. What Arab leader today, whatever his personal beliefs, would dare answer the question of whether he believed in God with this kind of élan: "I have decided to deal with this question thus: If God exists he must be pleased with me; if he does not exist then I am quite pleased with myself." Yet to his credit, Bourguiba generally shied from enforcing his attitudes. When his effort to ridicule Ramadan failed to create an example (the president appeared on television, at the height of the fast, to drink a glass of orange juice), he let the matter drop.

Still, such antics are an indication of just how far out of his own era Bourguiba strayed. Like other Arab intellectuals of his generation, he was unable to make his own integration of Western learning with Eastern sensibilities comfortable for his people. Better educated and more open-minded than their Arab brethren Tunisians may be, but many harbour the same resentment for the symbolic violence done to tradition which festers in Asyut or Algiers.

It is ironic that Bourguiba first emerged in nationalist politics as a loud defender of "Islamic" causes like barring Tunisians who had adopted French nationality from being buried in Muslim cemeteries. At the other end of the line, what finally pushed the old man's last lieutenant, Zeine Al Abadeen Ben Ali, to unclench his grip on power long after he had degenerated into senility was the combatant supreme's impolitic determination to crush Islamic fundamentalism by brute force.

Bourguiba's tale is an interesting one. Sadly, Hopwood tells it poorly. There are enough writing flaws to fill a weighty stylebook. Aside from typos and editorial lapses there is evidence of haste: Run-on sentences, repetition, jumping tenses, digressions (e.g. on the inadequacy of Hitler and Napoleon's genitalia) and downright mistakes (Lyndon Johnson was not U.S. president in 1971).

Less forgivable are this thin book's lengthy passages of pop psychology and shallow character analysis. We are told that Bourguiba was a manic depressive driven by the search for the mother he lost at young age. Of this Weltanschauung, we are told he combined "realism, dialogue, personality and action. The first three come from the French intellectual heritage, the fourth has Islamic roots." All very nice, but what does it mean?... — Middle East International

Max Rodenbeck

Jane Campion triumphs at Cannes in 'year of women'

By Andrew Gumbel

Reuter
CANNES — Despite doubts about the film world dubbing 1993 "the year of the woman", nobody at Cannes would begrudge New Zealand Director Jane Campion her Golden Palm for *The Piano*.

A passionate story about a mute 19th century Scottish woman sent off to New Zealand to marry a man she does not know, the film has been the biggest hit of the festival and a box-office success in France where it opened last week.

It is also the highest honour so far for Ms. Campion, whose career has included *Sweetie* and *An Angel At My Table*.

The Piano shared the Golden Palm with the Chinese epic *Farewell To My Concubine*.

"I feel so lucky to tell stories I want to tell," Ms. Campion told Reuters in an interview during the festival.

Ms. Campion, who also wrote the screenplay, financed the film with Australian and French money and enjoyed total artistic control.

The result is a visually sumptuous, psychologically complex and often troubling story dwelling on familiar Campion themes of communication and passion.

"I don't like to analyse

myself too much but I suppose I'm interested in outsiders and non-communicators and nuts," Ms. Campion said.

Holly Hunter, who plays the central character Ada, was also named Best Actress by the Cannes jury.

The story was conceived as a transposed version of Emily Brontë's gothic classic *Wuthering Heights*.

The piano of the title is Ada's main communicative link with the outside world, and also becomes the object of a power struggle between her husband Stewart (Sam Neill) and her lover (Harvey Keitel).

"Ada is modern in that she responds sensually to the world," Ms. Campion said.

There was evidently a strong sense of camaraderie, and particularly female camaraderie, on set. Hunter and the rest of the cast were full of praise for Ms. Campion's encouraging and inspiring directorial style.

Ms. Campion in return expressed her enthusiasm for women's issues without any hint of dogmatism.

"I don't myself feel very oppressed, generally speaking," Ms. Campion said. "I don't have an agenda for fighting for women. I just naturally really like them."

Her next project is an adaptation of Henry James'



Jane Campion

nov. 1 Portrait Of A Lady, due to star Australian actress Nicole Kidman.

But it will have to wait for the birth of Ms. Campion's first child, expected on July 1.

Cultural Revolution shaped Cannes winner Chen Kaige

By Andrew Gumbel

Reuter
CANNES — Chen Kaige, the Chinese director whose film *Farewell To My Concubine* shared the Cannes Golden Palm is in many ways a child of the Cultural Revolution.

Not only is the turbulent decade from 1966 to 1976 a crucial element in his epic story of actors at the Peking Opera, it also loomed large in his own life story.

"This film is half about infatuation, half about betrayal. The Cultural Revolution was a time of betrayal," Mr. Chen told Reuters in an interview during the Cannes Film Festival.

Chairman Mao Tse Tung's drive to reshape his country's intellectual class caught Mr. Chen, born in 1952, in his first year at high school.

In 1969 he was sent to rural southwestern China as part of a nationwide movement for urban youths to be "educated by the peasants".

He only escaped by joining the army in 1971, when he was sent to help the Viet Cong fight the Americans in Vietnam.

Only after the death of Mao could Mr. Chen enroll in film school. He has since scored several international successes including *Yellow Earth* (1984), *The Big Parade*

(1984) and *Life On A String* (1991).

Concubine follows two male actors from the time of their harsh training at the Peking Opera in the 1920s until after the Cultural Revolution.

Made famous by roles of a king and his concubine, the pair's sexual ambiguity on stage is mirrored in their personal lives.

When the Cultural Revolution comes, the opera is shut down and each betrays the other for personal as well as political reasons. The former prostitute who comes between their homosexual passion hangs herself.

"I don't want to make a political statement. I'm telling a story about human beings," Mr. Chen said.

The film is nevertheless singularly audacious, both about the Cultural Revolution and about homosexuality.

Although the Chinese authorities now allow criticism of the Mao period, Mr. Chen acknowledged he was treading on sensitive ground.

"I must say it is dangerous to be independent...everything in China is very complicated," he said.

The homosexuality is only hinted at, albeit unmistakably. Mr. Chen said the subject has a long tradition in China even if the Communists have ban-



Chen Kaige

ned homosexual practice. "Homosexuality is part of life," he said. "There is a pretty big gay community in Peking and Shanghai even if it is kept secret."

Mr. Chen is at the forefront of a renaissance of Asian cinema. Another film

feted at Cannes was *The Puppetmaster*, a Taiwanese production by Hou Hsiao Hsien that also bit off an epic chunk of Chinese history through the eyes of a traditional artist.

Aussie rockers focus on harder sound

By Dean Goodman

Reuter
LOS ANGELES — Australian rockers INXS say they are turning away from the dance-infected music that helped them sell more than 50 albums and will focus on a harder-edged "industrial" sound.

The move may be tough to swallow for fans who were wowed by such MTV-friendly pop tunes as *What You Need* and *New Sensation*, but lead singer Michael Hutchence says INXS (pronounced In Excess) needs to stay at the cutting edge of popular music.

"I don't want to be a jukebox band," he told Reuters in an interview. "I don't want to be a pastiche just standing around going, 'hey kids, there's that tune you love.'"

The "cutting edge" these days is inhabited by a broad cross-section of raucous, guitar-driven bands like

Metallica and Nirvana. Fluffy dance music probably sells more, but no hip young music fan's record collection is complete without a few grunge bands.

Throughout their 16-year career though, INXS have managed to walk a thin line between the two seemingly contradictory styles. Their music gets people out onto the dance floors of chic discotheques, but it also has an integrity and bite that appeals to the average rock fan.

As a result their diverse fan base ranges anywhere from hordes of teenyboppers to the likes of grizzled Rolling Stone Keith Richards. Hutchence traced the sextet's evolution — the personnel has stayed the same throughout — from a bunch of upstarts playing Australia's wild pub circuit to international stardom.

"We've had two loves — funk and rock — and, mmm, it's always been a

poker game between the two sides. I guess initially rock won for a while. We slowly put funk into our music and no one had really done it before in pubs in Australia, y'know."

"We were pioneers of 'beating' or something — that's a terrible quote — pioneers actually getting bottles thrown at us while we played and eventually that became the kind of style that a lot of bands have taken."

Hutchence seems to take his own style from Jim Morrison and Mick Jagger. He shares a poetic, otherworldly quality with the Doors' late singer and while his energetic stage act has often been labelled "Jaggeresque", his offstage demeanour also consists of mannerisms and inflections one often associates with the Stones' restless lead singer.

"I never studied the guy," Hutchence says in his best faux-Jagger accent. "If I

wanted to do Jagger, I could do a much better Jagger than I'm doing right now."

INXS gave a clue of their imminent shift in focus on their most recent album, *Welcome To Wherever You Are*, which was released a year ago and peaked at 16 on the U.S. charts.

The standout first single, *Heaven Sent*, featured distorted vocals, guitar overload and brooding lyrics. The rest of the album was more formulaic and critics were not overly enthused, although it still managed to sell two million worldwide.

INXS' next album is due to be released later in the year. A half-dozen tracks were previewed during the band's recent tour of eight small U.S. venues.

Ranging from *Cut The Roses*, which takes aim at the growth of fascism in Europe, to the mildly pessimistic *Days Of Rust*, the songs got a positive reception.

"It's better than I thought it would be considering that people haven't seen us for so many years and we go and play seven, eight new songs," Hutchence says.

"It's a good sign that people are getting off on them because it means that they are looking to change, looking for new stuff and happy to hear it."

In addition to focusing on new material, INXS has broken a music industry convention by playing small venues that sold out in a few minutes rather than stadiums, and they toured without a new album to support.

"Success doesn't have to shackle you to what you're meant to be doing, which is playing arenas or stadiums, da-dee-dah, being on T-shirts," says Hutchence.

"I'm not putting that down, I love that but you don't have to just do that. You do have a choice."

Renovated Freer Gallery of Asian Art reopens

By Joanne L. Nix

WASHINGTON — The Freer Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution's preeminent repository of Asian art, reopened its doors to the public after being closed four and a half years for major renovations.

Named after its benefactor, Charles Lang Freer, a self-made American millionaire, world traveler and art collector, the gallery, which houses his extensive collection, reopened on May 9 — 70 years to the day it was first dedicated as the Asian fine art museum of the Smithsonian.

The Italian Renaissance-style granite and marble structure houses Freer's collection of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, South and North East and Near Eastern art. It

is also home to Freer's collection of 19th and early 20th century American art, featuring the world's most important collection of works by the 19th century artist, James McNeill Whistler.

The \$26-million renovation project has restored the museum building to its original splendor, recovering elements of design long hidden beneath layers of paint and darkened varnish.

At the same time, the Freer Gallery building was expanded to include facilities for art conservation, research and collection storage. A two-story storage room was hollowed out beneath the existing gallery and an underground tunnel was built connecting the Freer Gallery with the neighbouring Smithsonian Institution's

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Asian Art.

Also renovated was the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Auditorium, a 302-seat hall that soon will be the site of Sri Lankan dance and film festivals to be held in conjunction with the Sackler Gallery exhibition, *The Golden Age of Sculpture From Sri Lanka*.

Later, beginning in September, there will be concerts by traditional Asian musicians, a chamber music series, Asian American theatrical presentations, lectures, symposia and film programmes — all related to exhibitions at the Freer and Sackler galleries.

The Freer and Sackler galleries together form the American National Museums of Asian Art. — USIA.

Museum fulfills rajah's promise

By Heidi Munan

KUCHING, Malaysia — A museum can be a building full of old junk where people shelter on a rainy afternoon — or it can be a focus of the community it serves. Sarawak Museum, famous as a tourist attraction in South East Asia, also holds enduring appeal for the local population. Some might say it has found the recipe for success. Local visitors account for the majority of the million annual visitors, and they are the most astute critics. They know the subject well!

"A museum must reflect the condition of the society it serves," explained Dr. Peter Kedit, museum director. "Its function is to collect, preserve, document and display objects of historical, scientific and human interest. It needs to be in tune with public and national aspirations. In the case of Sarawak, it mirrors the cultural identities of 25-odd ethnic groups. Each visitor can find himself here and learn how his group harmonises and interacts with all others. Ours is very much a local museum. It was founded over 100 years ago as a collection of local artifacts for the education and entertainment of the local people.

That, to this day, is its main strength."

Rajah Charles Brooke of Sarawak, founder of the museum, was not plagued by false modesty when he declared that his museum would be "second to none in the East." The second of a dynasty of English gentlemen who ruled Sarawak (eastern Malaysia on the island of Borneo) as an independent principality from 1841 to 1946, Sir Charles took a personal interest in the museum and was, uncharacteristically, prepared to leave a mark on his pet project. "I am very hot on the collection," he wrote in 1889, ordering that birds, large snakes, big lizards — "anything that will make a show in a case" — be dispatched to Kensington Museum for stuffing and never mind the cost!

Sir Charles, in his firm handwriting, appointed the first curator of the museum and aquarium: "You are also to superintend the Printing Department and the Gazette."

museum curators were men of varied qualifications. Swedish naturalist Dr. Eric Mjoberg took over in 1922 and was later described by his successor as "the finest collector the museum ever had. Nothing moved on land or in the air but he had it." Other things, such as tact and humour, Dr. Mjoberg lacked. In a book published after he left Sarawak, he described the small state as a cesspool of corruption, poverty, crime, and disease.

Only Mjoberg and his successors were to change that.

The shot-at curator, Edward Banks, spent his early months in office disputing Dr. Mjoberg's right to take antiquities out of the country. Mr. Banks was at his post at the time of the Japanese invasion. He said he remained "with a collection of personal belongings in the museum. I don't have to try very hard. They showed a great respect for the place and never touched a thing."

A new generation of scholars is working at the Sarawak Museum. Kedit is an Iban

(Borneo native) with books and learned papers to his name. As curator, he is in a position to explain Sarawak to the world from an insider's point of view. Although he doesn't superintend the police or the debtors' court, he still wears many hats. He administers the Antiquities Ordinance and the Local Newspapers Ordinance. Issues licenses for the collection of edible birds' nests and is regularly called upon by state visits to the history of arts and crafts. He is also in charge of the garden and the Turtles Board.

And his domain is growing — the stately mansion built by Sir Charles is now the Old Museum. It has been joined by Dewan Tun Abdul Razak and the Islamic Museum in the old Malay school founded by Rajah Charles. The colonial post office in Kuching, Sarawak's capital, will be put under the museum's management as an art gallery. The museum is slated to house a museum of costume and personal ornament. The office will be relocated in a new administrative block containing an up-to-date technical section, educational facilities, a cafeteria — "everything a museum needs, that we at

present don't have, due to lack of space," said Mr. Kedit.

The Old Museum houses much of the natural history, geology and ethnography collection. The "longhouse gallery," a segment of a traditional Dayak longhouse that visitors can enter and explore, continues to draw crowds. In the upstairs west wing, selected artists from the interior painted a magnificent mural of a Kenyah Tree of Life, a decoration traditionally reserved for the walls of high-ranking families. The woodcarvings and basketry exhibits withstand the constant scrutiny of the museum's quality control panel — visitors from all parts of the state who are themselves expert traditional craftsmen, none of whom would hesitate to voice an opinion if they spotted a substandard article.

One of the star attractions is a stone-age walk through Niah Cave. A small portion of this famous, prehistoric Borneo site has been reconstructed, and a model of the 35,000-year-old Niah Skull is exhibited. Much of the Niah excavations were done under the direction of the museum's first post-war curator, Tom Harrison, whose zeal and prolific writings on a wide range of subjects put Sara-



Sarawak's museum Director Dr. Peter Kedit ensures that the museum reflects the cultural identity of Borneo's ethnic groups

wak Museum "on the map" internationally.

Beyond the Niah Cave exhibit is a 10th century trading display, and then the Sarawak Museum's matchless collection of ceramics. Silent guardians of a turbulent past, these jars and plates were brought to Borneo long ago in Chinese and Indian vessels. Some date to the Tang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.). Sung and Yuan wares, white Yueh wares and pale green and buff Lung Chuan celadons of the 14th and 15th centuries are represented. Ming in a full array of shapes

and sizes is almost ordinary in the Sarawak Museum.

Borneo natives treasure ceramics. Huge jars have names and pedigrees as long as any aristocrat's. Where but in Sarawak could an insulted grandpa turn into a jar, as told in a folk tale? The vessel reportedly requested, in a dream, that a later owner put a cloth around it as it objected to being seen naked.

From the ceramics gallery, visitors stroll through traditional dwellings. Here is the clay hearth for cooking sago, the coastal Melanau's daily food. There is a long-house

with rooms devoted to the culture of Sarawak's major native groups. A makeshift Penan hut stands in a jungle clearing, authentic down to the jungle-floor cover of rotting leaves.

Foreign visitors often express amazement at the crowd of people, especially young people, seen daily in the museum. There are regular "school visits," but most youngsters come back in their free time, eager for more. The old Rajah was right: Sarawak Museum is second to none in the East — World News Link.

Critical timing

By Jean-Claude Elias

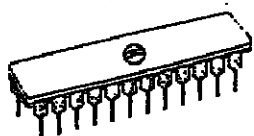
For the past ten years I have been intensely involved in marketing personal computers (PC) in Jordan. The most amazing remark that many private users have been making was: "I'd rather wait a little more before buying my computer. PCs are getting faster and cheaper."

If technically correct, that is computers are actually more powerful and less expensive every day, this remark translates a negative attitude and a lack of computer awareness. The reason for it is very simple. PCs cannot be considered as "dummy machines, made of metal, plastic, silicon and glass. In other words one cannot consider a PC as just a piece of hardware."

Purchasing a PC for the first time means learning how to use it and make good use of the available software programmes. It's taking a major step towards information technology, a field than no one can any more ignore or avoid. It's "buying knowledge" and not just twenty kilograms of equipment. How does one evaluate the direct financial value of knowledge? Naturally, it's impossible.

In terms of hardware, buying a JD 1,200 PC now means one can expect to use it for typically five years and eventually resell it then for approximately JD 300. The absolute expenditure would then be JD 900 for the five years, or an average of JD 15 a month. Is that too much for technology awareness that everyone agrees to consider as the most important nowadays? Waiting until prices go

chip talk



down further or machines get faster is definitely running the risk of being left behind.

The situation is different for those already equipped with a PC and searching to replace it with a newer and better one. Those have started the learning process early enough and can afford to weigh things and evaluate the new purchase quietly. They'll still be computer users whatever they do. I have not yet seen a PC user who gave up his or her machine and has completely forsaken this technology.

What matters most is not the flashy characteristics of the PCs we use — megabytes, megahertz or other megas — but what they allow us to learn, and do. Being on the same wavelength as the people we communicate with in our daily life is a priceless matter. Information technology allows us to do so. It is of prime importance and we cannot afford to postpone the learning process even for one day.

French perfumes begin in Bulgaria's Valley of the Roses

By Elisaveta Konstantinova Reuter

KAZANLAK, Bulgaria — Women buying luxurious scents from the world's exclusive perfume houses hardly suspect that its basic ingredient comes from Bulgaria.

On the first Friday of June each year in the Valley of the Roses in Kazanlak, 200 kilometres east of Sofia, celebrations begin to mark the harvest of a sea of pink buds which will end up in the tiny bottles of precious liquid.

The scented oil from their petals will be distilled into attar of roses, a centuries-old elixir that remains one of the main ingredients of today's sophisticated perfumes.

Exclusive houses such as

France's Christian Dior and Nina Ricci, and America's Estee Lauder and Revlon, are long-time buyers of the Bulgarian product, also known as rose-oil.

"This is Bulgaria's cleanest industry," Boncho Sarafov, Kazanlak's mayor, told Reuters.

The industry is also one of the most land-intensive and tedious. Distillers need up to six tonnes of rose petals to make just one kilo (2.2 lb) of the precious oil, which at current prices will fetch about \$5,000.

The blooms are richest when plucked before dawn, so rose-pickers must be in the fields by 3 a.m. Otherwise distilleries may reject their harvest.

Bulgaria, the world's

largest producer of attar of roses, produces just 500 kilograms a year and exports most of it.

The rose blooms are small and not particularly attractive. But as well as providing an industry, they are the well-spring of ancient traditions.

During the Rose Festival which marks the beginning of the harvest, Kazanlak's fountains splash with rose-coloured water, and local girls dressed in bright national dress vie to become the "queen of roses".

According to a tradition that began in the perfumed mists of Bulgaria's 800 years as a rose-oil producer, it is she who will cut the first rose of the season.

The secret lies in the unique variety of oil-giving rose,

which is best only when grown in the Valley of the Roses," said Maya Gerasimova, marketing expert of Bulgarska Rosa State Distillery.

Rose-oil distilleries and rose gardens were taken over by the Communists after World War II. After the Communist government was ousted in 1989 the original owners began clamouring to get back their valuable land while others queued up to buy distilleries.

The government soon suspended privatisation of the large state rose distillery and restitution of rose fields.

With an annual income of up to \$2.5 billion, it argued, Bulgaria's roses, along with its arms industry, are a strategic asset.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 10

8:30 Coach

9:10 Quantum Leap

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Friday, June 11

8:30 Alf

9:10 H.E.L.P.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Saturday, June 12

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes

9:00 Documentary — Not Another Science Show

The Episode focused on that wonderful forgotten part of the foot.

9:30 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Let's Get Harry

Starring: Tom Wilson

The American ambassador in Columbia is kidnapped by drug dealers in an attempt to release one of their leaders.

Sunday, June 13

8:30 Step By Step

Dina and her cousin prepare for an exam in mathematics.

9:10 The Good Guys

Dog Days

Lofthouse has agreed to look after his Aunt Edna's King Charles Spaniel, Kylie. On



Jeremy Beadle in Beadle's About Tuesday at 8:30

the way home from Dorset, he stops in Richmond Park where he meets the thuggish Justin and his Rottweiler, Barry, who knocks Guy over. MacFadyen bumps into an old girl friend, Tessa, to find that as well as having her own advertising consultancy, she goes round the streets at night gathering up stray dogs. She takes MacFadyen to her large Kensington house where her dogs are housed. She reveals that there is a gang at work picking up dogs and using their pelts to make novelty fashion items.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Mon-sieurs Des Bois

Monday, June 14

8:30 And Baby Makes Five

Peter Scolari plays Eddie Riddle, a young father of three small children, whose expectant wife, Jennie (Louise Williams), surprises everyone when she delivers twins. With three rambunctious toddlers and the added domestic challenges of not one, but two new bundles of

9:10 False Arrest

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Save The Tiger

Starring: Jack Lemmon

Wednesday, June 16,

8:30 The Torkelsons

There's never a dull moment when the crazy Torkelson family is around — a kooky crew that keeps the small town of Pyramid Corners on its toes. Single mother Millicent is the proud ringleader of this family circus, and although they're often broke, she'll stop at nothing to support her five kids — even flirting with the butcher for free steaks! Not surprisingly, her children are just as eccentric — eight-year-old Chuckie Lee insists on protecting the Torkelson women from unrespectable suitors, while Ruth Ann is an aspiring beauty contestant. Along with six-year-old Mary Sue and brother Steven Floyd, the Torkelsons are a lovable screwball family who are always ready to embrace the unexpected.

The only "normal" Torkelson — according to herself — is teenage Dorothy Jane, the oldest. With a closet full of hand-me-downs, Dorothy Jane is often embarrassed by her family's kookiness and dire financial straits.

9:00 Local Programme

9:30 Documentary — Voyager

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cruel Doubt

The story takes place in Washington in 1988. Molly's house is attacked at night in an attempt to murder her husband.

Tuesday, June 15

8:30 Beadles About

A thing called ethics

By E. Yaghi

The other day someone reminded me about the problems of cheating at the university. I am well aware that such behaviour does exist but I did not realise that sometimes it is done so blatantly. What makes the matter even worse, the person caught in the act was not a young student, but an older one who apparently never took into consideration the importance of being a good role model for younger classmates. Needless to say, of course, young students cheat too, and in fact, they are quite adept at it and can even be heard bragging about their achievements to friends after they get out of the examination room.

Conversations like these have met my ears: "I wrote all the answers on my hands."

"Say, that's good, but my method is even better. I put the textbook down on the floor near my feet and whenever the professor isn't looking, I get the answers I need."

I have even seen girls with longer hair covering their mouths and saying the answers to the ones sitting next to them. However, it is my opinion that students who cheat, cheat themselves. More often than not, they will be those who believe that studying is one of the seven deadly sins and that the purpose for a university degree is not to become wiser and more educated, but mainly to procure a paper which documents four years of perfecting the art of fraud. Still, I wonder just what kind of future leaders such deceiving students will make and how are they going to describe their college days to their own children? Will they have some kind of advice like this?

"Hey, son! Why are you wearing yourself out. When I was your age, I never studied!"

Whereas the youngster to be will probably stare in amazement at his paragon of virtue and exclaim: "Gee, dad! Mom, then how did you ever pass?"

"Quite simple, kid. I swindled and cheated my way through school and later on the university too!"

Imagine the delight the minor will have upon receiving such impetus to not study and learn anything. An even sadder fact is that cheating does not go on only at institutions of learning but at various departments in all too many organisations be they public or private. Cheating disguises itself in many forms. One such is the attitude that doing one's best is not a criteria for having a job well done. "Let the other guy do it" is too frequently the attitude but when it comes to credit for good work, then there ensues a stampede of attention getters with the overworn phrase, if it weren't for me this feat would never have happened."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

CAPITALS

ROME

- Since 1871 capital of Italy.
- Population: Approx. 3,000,000.
- Located on the Tiber, 17 miles from its entrance into the Mediterranean Sea.
- Was once the centre of the Roman Empire.
- Acquired its fresh glory as the mother-city of Christendom in the Middle Ages, and the later capital of the Papal States and the seat of the Popes.
- Of Rome's ruined buildings the most imposing are: the Colosseum, the Forum, the Aurelian Wall (12 miles), the Baths of Caracalla, the Palatine, Capitoline, Aventine, etc.
- St. Peter's Basilica is still the finest church in the world.
- Was captured by the Allies in 1944.
- An international airport was opened at Fiumicino in 1961.
- The Pope governs the Roman Catholic Church from the Vatican City.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- HALF of the world's telephones are in North America.
- THE CUSTOM of putting copper coins on the eyes of the dead originated in England.
- A SNAKE will swallow glass or porcelain eggs as readily as real eggs.
- THE WIFE of President James K. Polk abolished dancing at White House parties.
- BIRDS have a poor sense of smell but their eyesight is superior to that of human beings.

DREAMS

- DUMB: Whether it was yourself or others who were unable to speak, a dream of dumbness is a warning to keep your business to yourself and avoid any speculative ventures for the time being.

- BLIND: A dream of warning; whether the dream involved others who were blind or your own blindness, it is a straight sign of deceit among those you trust most.

- DEAFNESS: To dream of losing your own hearing is the forerunner of great financial success; to dream of others being deaf signifies a happy solution to your present problems, unless you were trying to communicate with a deaf-mute, in which case you must expect a period of frustration before you get what you want.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

LOBBY

- A hallway, a passage or a vestibule; a waiting-room or anteroom.

Praise is seldom delivered to that hard working original employee who diligently labours in patient silence for the better of his company but to the one who boasts the most or has the best "wasta." And then again, original ideas are too often stolen, plagiarised or imitated and claimed by selfish position seekers who leave the inventor without credit or appreciations. Such acts dull further initiative of dedicated individuals.

Bickering is also a common detriment of our society. It occurs at all levels and in all institutions and is typical of the behaviour of Arab countries in general. Petty faults are singled out and over-stressed and gossip is a morsel more tasty than the best meal. Furthermore, envy is that green worm which eats away and finally devours its owner and far too many are jealous of those better than themselves. If they would only try to improve and make an effort to work with their fellow colleagues in a team spirit. One ant could never destroy a whole rubber plantation, but an army of determined ants can devastate one without any effort.

Another aggravating trait is the failure to keep commitments. Such a failure when repeated constantly is a sign of deep seated hypocrisy. Once we make a commitment we should expect of ourselves as other do, to keep it. We seem to be turning into a people who overpraise ourselves with redundant and rhetoric adjectives which from the weight that they bear, (the adjectives that is,) are ready to topple over. At times it is wise to view ourselves with a critical eye and stop blaming everyone, whether they be individuals or outside nations, for our own defects and mistakes and admit our shortcomings. It is time we cease self-deception and strive to all work together honestly and with a sincere effort to improve ourselves and our nation so that we will make the world we live in a better one, a place where the children of the future can be grateful for our accomplishments and sacrifices and look back on our time with gratitude and admiration.

A few weeks ago when I wrote The Tea Party, I had such thoughts as the aforementioned in mind. The story actually derived from an incident that really happened. I chose the device of symbolism to express my feelings. However, at times symbolism is not always an end to a means and the reader is left to make his/her own conclusions about the intended meaning. This time I did not try to disguise my emotions but submit them in the raw. There are moments when disappointments can not be effectively concealed and things must be said when it comes to that essence called ethics.

- ★ In the House of Commons, a hall where members of the parliament interview constituents and other callers.
- ★ A body of persons attempting to influence a member in their own interest.
- ★ One of the two corridors, called division lobbies, by passing into which members cast their votes.
- ★ A lobby correspondent is a political journalist picking up news in the lobby of the House of Commons.
- ★ A lobbyist is one who actively tries to persuade a government or council that a law should be changed or that a particular thing should be done.
- ★ The lobby of a building is the main entrance area with corridors and staircases leading to different areas.
- ★ Lobbying is a term originated in the U.S. in the 1830s when agents gathered in the lobbies of Congress and state legislatures to press their causes.
- ★ Lobbyism is the practice of persons who lobby.
- ★ Lobium (plural: lobia), meaning "gallery" — from medieval Latin.

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TIME FOR FUN

- JUDGE: "Did you ever see this prisoner before the bar in your life?"
- WITNESS: "Sure. That's where we always meet."

★ ★ ★

- FIANCE: "This is the second time I've had to postpone my wedding. Do you think it's bad luck to do that?"
- BEST MAN: "Not if you keep on doing it."

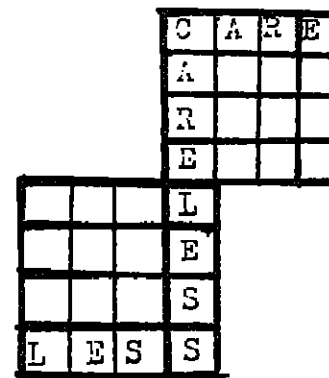
★ ★ ★

- A little boy was sobbing his heart out because his dog was gone.
- "I'm sorry you've lost your dog," his aunt sympathised.
- "I didn't lose him," he moaned, "he lost me."

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PUZZLES

- (A) Double-word square
Fill in letters to make a double word-square connected by the word CARELESS.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- (B) Dot it in a minute
A well-known PROVERB will be formed if the correct letters are supplied in the line of letters below.
F-I-T-E-R-N-V-R-O-F-I-L-D-

AIDS prevention strategy needed for women

IN RECENT years, Debrework Zewdie has watched with dread as the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic has spread within her homeland of Ethiopia. "The impact of this disease, especially on women, became close to my heart," says Zewdie, who works with AIDS prevention projects for the Africa regional office of AIDSCAP, an effort of U.S.-based Family Health International (FHI).

"About a third of all those infected with HIV are now women," says Zewdie, "and by the year 2000, there are expected to be as many HIV-infected women as men." Experts believe that the trend in Ethiopia is also being repeated worldwide — more women than men will be HIV infected by the end of the century, which is the reverse

of the historical breakdown by gender.

Women are biologically more susceptible to HIV transmission than men, among the reasons for the trend. Yet existing efforts to control the spread of HIV infections primarily encourage the use of male latex condoms or monogamous relationships. These two approaches, says Zewdie, often have limited success among women in Africa and other developing countries.

In many cultures, even a woman who practices monogamy herself may have little assurance that her partner is doing so. Many men refuse to use a male condom. Zewdie is among five women from different countries who recently gave their personal perspectives about women and AIDS in a recent FHI publication called *Network*.

In Mexico, a widow with five children who was dying of AIDS describes how her family has suffered. In Poland, a teenager talks about the need to provide teenagers with AIDS information and condoms. In many developing countries, according to two women experts, the low social status of women makes prevention efforts especially difficult.

With virtually no AIDS prevention strategy available that is completely under a woman's control, scientists are taking a closer look at female contraceptive barrier methods as potential ways to help women avoid HIV infection. The diaphragm and the recently developed female condom may offer a mechanical means of curtailing HIV infection, while spermicides may provide a chemical barrier. "Men con-

trol the use of condoms. Women control diaphragms and can control topical spermicides," says Dr. Zena Stein of Columbia University's HIV Centre for Clinical and Behavioral Studies in New York. A female-controlled strategy would improve HIV prevention overall, she says.

Using a female condom should reduce the risk of HIV transmission, but the extent of the reduction is not yet known, according to Dr. Herbert Peterson of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. "Clearly, it would appear to be more effective than nothing," he says.

Experts express different opinions regarding advice women should be given. One group concludes that women should be advised to continue using male condom use by their partners as the sole pre-

vention measure that has been reliably demonstrated. Others argue that using protective barriers and spermicides would offer some degree of protection for women who might otherwise have no protection.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in May approved the use of the female condom in the United States, but the agency noted that data demonstrating its effectiveness in preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection, were limited. The FDA emphasized that the male latex condom remains the best shield against HIV transmission.

Spermicides used alone or with barrier methods such as diaphragms offer protection against gonorrhea and chlamydia infection, but how relevant this may be for HIV

transmission is not clear because of unresolved questions about the mechanism of HIV infection. Regarding the female condom, FHI and the U.S.-based Contraceptive Research and Development Programme (CONRAD) sponsored clinical trials between 1990 and 1992. These studies, however, involved monogamous volunteer couples who used it for birth control, according to FHI's Gaston Farr. While the studies did not evaluate protection against disease per se, the findings on contraceptive effectiveness suggest that the female condom may offer some degree of HIV protection.

Dr. Gary Slutkin of the World Health Organisation says in an editorial that governments must do more to expand successful AIDS prevention techniques in order



Dr. Gary Slutkin

to make them most effective. FHI is a non-profit research and technical assistance organization dedicated to con-

traceptive development, reproductive health and AIDS prevention — Family Health International.

Study urges lump-removing surgery, radiation for early breast cancer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A major study shows a combination of lump-removing surgery and radiation is the best way to treat a nationwide "plague" of tiny localized breast cancer, rather than relying on lumpectomy alone.

These minuscule early tumours — what doctors call *Ductal Carcinoma in Situ* — have not spread beyond milk ducts in the breast. Most are too small to be felt and show up only on breast X-rays.

These tumours were once considered to be rare. But, because of the wide use of mammograms in the past decade, they are being recognised with dramatically increasing frequency. An estimated 182,000 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed this year, and at some hospitals the tiny early tumours make up one-quarter of all cases.

"We face a plague of ductal carcinoma in situ," com-

mented Dr. William Wood of Emory University.

Until now, there has been no agreement on how this stage of the disease should be handled. While surgery, radiation therapy and sometimes chemotherapy are standard for more advanced cancer, the treatment of ductal carcinoma in situ ranges from simple lumpectomy to breast removal.

The new study was intended to settle this question. It was based on 818 women who were randomly assigned to have either lumpectomy alone for their early breast cancer or lumpectomy plus radiation.

The research showed that the addition of radiation therapy clearly improves the chances of avoiding new cancer, at least in the short term.

After five years of follow up, 16 per cent of the women in the radiation group had experienced a recurrence of cancer or had died, compared

with 26 per cent among those who got only lumpectomies. The annual occurrence of these so-called "adverse events" was 47 per cent lower in the radiation patients. The risk of new tumours in the same breast was 59 per cent reduced in these women.

The study was conducted by Dr. Bernard Fisher and colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh and presented at the annual scientific meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. The findings are scheduled to be published soon in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

These and similar studies are often criticised because breast cancer is a slow-growing disease, and many years of follow up are necessary to know if a particular therapy truly works better. This is one reason why some surgeons have been reluctant to switch from performing mastectomies to lumpecto-

mies.

Dr. Donald L. Wickert, who presented the findings, described the results as being "as compelling as any that are currently being used to dictate therapy. It would not be proper to mandate that another generation of women be subjected to mastectomy solely until we can get follow up."

He recommended that doctors tell patients of the findings so that women "can make informed decisions in their own care."

There has been a controversy among doctors as to whether ductal carcinoma in situ should be treated as aggressively as other breast tumours. Studies have shown that until the advent of mammography, most women who had these tiny tumours lived their whole lives without ever being aware of them. Autopsies have found evidence of them in about one-quarter of all women.

Dr. Melvin J. Silverstein of the Breast Centre in Van Nuys, Calif., predicted that the latest findings will be controversial. He said some surgeons believe that by taking out a larger portion of tissue, they can achieve better results than were seen in the lumpectomy patients in this study.

Meanwhile, contrary to earlier belief, the vegetable fats used in cooking oils and in margarine do not increase the risk of breast cancer, researchers said.

Measurements of such fats in tissue samples taken from the buttocks of older women turned up "no association" with the incidence of breast cancer among the volunteers.

said Dr. Stephanie J. London, the lead author of the study.

Fats have been associated with breast cancer in earlier studies. But those studies were based on animal research or on the association between the diets in a nation and the rates of breast cancer in that nation. There also have been studies that show migrating women soon adopted the breast cancer rates of their new country.

The new research, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, was based on an analysis of a tissue called Adipose. These types of cells store fat for up to two years after it is con-

sumed and forms a record of the relative amounts of different types of fats that a person eats, said Dr. London, of the University of Southern California.

The new technique "is particularly good for looking at polyunsaturated fats, such as in vegetable oils, or at trans fatty acids, such as in margarine or baked goods," she said. "We found no association between these fats and the risk of breast cancer."

Adipose specimens were taken from 380 women with breast cancer, 176 with benign breast disease, and 397 women with no such disease. The specimens were then analysed for the proportions

of various types of fats. The results, said Dr. London, showed that women with elevated levels of the vegetable fats were at no greater risk for either breast cancer or for proliferative benign breast disease, a condition that often precedes breast cancer.

Results based on the Adipose studies, she said, are much more reliable than some dietary studies that depend upon patients recalling what and how much they ate in the past.

With actual specimens in the lab, the results are based on scientific analysis instead of patient memory, said Dr. London.

Health workers urged to quit smoking

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged all health workers to quit smoking and spread the message to their patients in a bid to counter the risks of tobacco.

"No doctor should ignore the fact that smoking already kills three million people each year and that the figure will continue to grow if nothing is done," the U.N. health agency said.

Its report was issued in advance of the World No-Tobacco Day, which this year focuses on the responsibilities of health services.

Ironically, WHO said, the stress of dealing with death prompted many doctors and nurses to seek relief in smoking.

It cited a European study that in Portugal, 39 per cent of all family doctors smoked

compared with 27 per cent of the adult population. In Italy, respective totals were 41 per cent and 33 per cent.

By contrast, only 20 per cent of Irish general practitioners smoked compared to 37 per cent of the population. Among medical students in Europe, the proportion of smokers ranged from 20 per cent in England to 50 per cent in Poland, it said.

The WHO report said although many doctors had kicked the habit, they had not done enough to persuade patients to follow suit. This was despite evidence that even a few minutes of medical counseling increased the chances of a smoker giving up.

It cited data from the United States that although 90 per cent of physicians believed helping patients quit was an important part of their job, less than half offered such advice. And only three

per cent of those surveyed thought their efforts had succeeded.

WHO also appealed to dentists to lecture patients about tobacco side-effects like discoloured teeth and bad breath.

The report said a total of 68 countries had passed laws banning smoking from hospitals and other health centres, but much more needed to be done.

"All too often a smoky haze pervades health premises," said WHO Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima. "Renewed efforts are needed to stop the sale of tobacco and its consumption in buildings where members of the health professions work."

WHO was particularly damning about pharmacies in the United States and Canada which sell cigarettes at the same time as dispensing medicines.

"It said in the United States pharmacies accounted for an estimated 25 per cent of tobacco sales to minors. Many had vending machines, making illegal purchases easy."

WHO also criticised smoking activists who cited their freedom of choice as an argument against moves to introduce more no-smoking zones.

And it renewed warnings about the effects of passive smoking.

It said constant exposure to tobacco increased the risk of death from lung cancer for non-smokers by an estimated 20-30 per cent and raised the likelihood of heart disease and respiratory illnesses.

Earlier this year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concluded that other people's tobacco smoke was a Group A Carcinogen, the same classification as asbestos and radon.

Test signals which alcoholics at risk for sudden death

By Randi Hutter Epstein
The Associated Press

LONDON — Alcoholics with abnormally slow electrical conduction in the heart are at increased risk of sudden death, according to a preliminary British study.

The findings, if confirmed, would enable doctors using a routine test to pinpoint which alcoholics need to quit drinking immediately to avert fatal heart damage.

Doctors have long known that alcohol abuse damages the heart as well as the liver. Many alcoholics die suddenly because the heart stops beating.

Other studies have linked sudden death to slow electrical conduction, which can be an inherited defect.

This study is the first to suggest that chronic alcohol abuse damages electrical circuits in the heart, leading to dangerously slow conduction, said Dr. Christopher Day, the investigator at Freeman Hospital in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

The findings are published

in the latest issue of the *Lancet*, a medical journal.

In 1987, Dr. Day studied the hearts of 69 alcoholics who had at least eight drinks daily for five years and showed signs of liver damage. He compared them to healthy men who had fewer than three drinks daily, and women who had fewer than two drinks daily.

Dr. Day examined a distance called QT, which measures the duration of the contraction within a single beat. This is different from the pulse rate, which measures a full cycle of contraction and relaxation.

Normal QT intervals are faster than 440 milliseconds, or 400 thousandths of a second.

After four years, 14 of the 69 alcoholics died. Of the six who died suddenly of heart failure, all had prolonged QT intervals of about 525 milliseconds.

All six who died had continued drinking heavily in the four years after their initial exam. Two alcoholics with prolonged QT intervals quit

drinking in 1987 and survived.

Based on these two patients, Dr. Day suspects that alcoholics with prolonged QT intervals can sharply reduce their risk of sudden death by giving up drinking.

The study does not say how many surviving alcoholics had QT intervals of greater than 500. However, Dr. Day said in an interview that seven of the survivors had QT intervals of 500 or more

— the two who scored 525 and quit drinking, and five others whose QT intervals were around 500.

Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, a cardiologist at Johns Hopkins, called the study "an interesting observation that merits further study."

Dr. Gottlieb said no one knows how chronic drinking slows the heart. It might be a direct effect of the alcohol or due to chronic malnutrition, common among alcoholics.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL
By Venturian Barron

- ACROSS
1. Slacker's life
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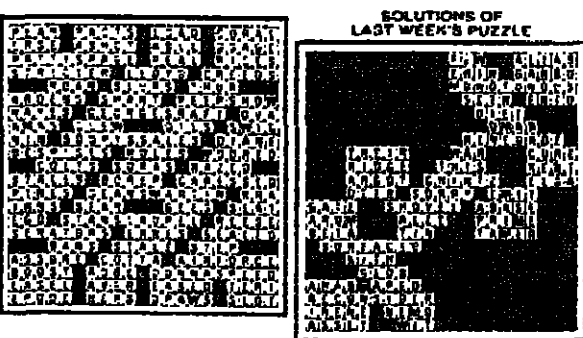


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Razzle-dazzle football plays may prove the defenders sometimes, but they often fizzle.
2. Fuddies had prize right after eating pools of wonder.
3. According to a fine, light-hearted lexicon, toolboxes are "fiddle" containers.
4. Wacky "look" is often the result of ordinary hand work.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. BDEGR WIGYJZY GYWGRIJ GNQRTY
WGEGR ZV QGRJY DW NGRU GVAZIGYRA
4ZVZL UTAZYLR. — By Joseph Delaglio
2. SKAM BALM SQUALWNA YXQAZ YJ
USQMPZA GJXJ ILNRYX JOY JI KQU
ZSQMZPQNH LWXALHA, JYXQYQYAOU ILYA
UYAGGAG QM. — By Rita Salvato
3. HDVY HWJE LJG YEAKSE BAHX PDZM
BXAHS QVWKSQ LEAIQK NBJQ QEWJT HW
PDUSY HWJEAGH GTWH WI UDAIN
ZWDGH. — By Earl Ireland
4. NJQYS YOG JD AIBILE NOLDPR NEVER IN
BEDREY AVIUC NAPNAP BUG ED SEA
NPDN. — By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS PUZZLES

(A) Double word-square
C A R E
A L E E
R E E L
E E L S

D E A L
E A S E
A S K S
L E S S

☆☆☆

(B) The proverb is: FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY.

Egypt holds 70 in tourist bus attack

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have detained 70 people for questioning after a bomb attack on a tourist bus in Cairo killed one man and injured 22 people including five Britons, security sources said Wednesday.

The attack on Tuesday, the first on foreign tourists since April 11, shattered an immediate prospect of a recovery in the tourist industry, which has been devastated by a year of attacks by Muslim militant gunmen and bombers.

Nobody claimed responsibility but senior police officers blamed the militants, who are waging a campaign of violence to overthrow the government and make Egypt a purist Islamic state.

Government military experts and witnesses gave different descriptions of the bomb.

Explosive experts said the device contained 1.5 kilograms of TNT, packed with nails and connected to a timer, and was in a plastic bag on the rear carrier of a bicycle in an underpass on the main road leading to the Pyramids of Giza.

But witnesses, including the driver of the tour bus and a police

officer on the scene immediately after the attack, said the bomb was thrown at the bus from a road bridge above.

There seemed to be no doubt that the bomb had been packed with nails to cause maximum injuries. The only Briton to suffer more than slight wounds was a man who had an operation to remove a nail embedded in his chest.

The last three bombs in Cairo, on Feb. 26, May 21 and May 27, have all contained nails. The government blamed them all on militants although nobody admitted responsibility.

The first killed a Swede, a Turk and an Egyptian when it exploded in a crowded cafe and the second killed seven Egyptians in a busy street. The third caused no deaths but injured three Egyptian policemen and two civilians.

Security sources said the final casualty toll from the explosion Tuesday was one Egyptian man killed and 22 people injured: 15 Egyptians, including the guide from the tour bus, were in serious condition.

The explosion wrecked a Mercedes car driving in front of the coach and blew out the windows of the bus, which then crashed into the back of the car.

Egyptian politics mummified, critics say

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

CAIRO — In Egypt, frustrated intellectuals say it is not only the dead who are mummified but the whole political system.

Politicians and public figures who came to prominence after the army overthrew King Farouk in 1952 still dominate. There are few new faces and they often seem to have inherited their positions along with their jobs.

Egyptian newspapers and television, cabinet ministers and opposition leaders speak the language of the 1950s — democracy, economic reform and personal freedom.

But intellectuals, academics, ordinary Egyptians and even officials say that in reality, both government and opposition largely address current problems with the mindset of the 1950s — decisions imposed from above, patronage and bureaucracy.

Some believe this is why so many young Egyptians have

been turning to Islamic fundamentalist groups, whether the mainstream Muslim Brotherhood or the violent militant organisations fighting to overthrow the government by force.

"Most of our party leaders, politicians and officials are corpses. Any change requires new faces and new visions," said Jalal Dweidar, editor-in-chief of the pro-government newspaper Al Akhbar.

"There ought to be a cycle of renewal in the government, in the constitution, institutions and parties. There should be a handover to a new generation. But any change must be gradual."

Nabil Abdul Fattah of Al Ahram Strategic Studies Centre said: "There has been no movement in the political institutions from bottom to top in a democratic way. You cannot find new blood or anybody from the young generation in Egypt's political life."

Academics say failure to revitalise conventional politics has given Islamic fundamentalists an ideal opportunity to

recruit angry, rebellious young men to their slogan of "Islam is the solution."

"How can you fight the Islamic trend when there is no ideology around — neither left or right?" asked Ahmad Sayyed Ahmad, a writer. "There is an ideological vacuum and the easiest way to fill it is with religion."

The main Islamic opposition movement, the 60-year-old Muslim Brotherhood, is led by elderly men, including several descendants of its founders, and appears to fit the moribund pattern of Egypt's other political organisations.

But many of the Brotherhood's most active supporters are young, highly-educated doctors, engineers or lawyers who combine a fundamentalist belief in Islam with an openness to new ideas of government.

Militant groups such as Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which has devastated Egypt's tourist industry with attacks on foreigners over the last year, also appeal to the frustrated young, particularly those from impoverished villages and slum areas.

Academics say only true democratic freedoms and an attack on ingrained corruption and bureaucracy can stem the fundamentalist tide and save Egypt from plunging into the unknown.

But government officials and some Western diplomats fear that sudden liberalisation might only help the fundamentalists. As the best-organised opposition force, they could sweep to power legally as they nearly did in Algeria in December 1991.

King: Changes only through dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

"There are some who try to confuse our positions and try to depict Jordan as incoherent in an attempt to endanger democracy," he said and urged journalists to beware of these attempts and to confront them in a democratic manner.

He also reiterated his keenness to achieve Arab solidarity and mending fences in Arab relations, stressing that the Arabs should have live in dignity and in a democratic atmosphere.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Majali reiterated that the government did not yet study a new Election Law and that if any amendment to the current law were to be introduced, it would be through a shura (consultation) process.

The prime minister said Arab participation in the Middle East peace process had contributed to changing the old image in the minds of Arabs, and had made the international community understand Arab causes better.

He stressed that Jordan's concerns in the peace process centre around four basic issues: Regaining its lands estimated at 350 square kilometres, re-drawing international borders, gaining its water rights and guaranteeing the

well-being of its people and borders.

At the same time, he said, Jordan stresses the need for Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and to stop evicting Palestinians from their homeland, while Jordan upholds the principle of not signing any separate peace treaty with Israel and maintains its support for the Palestinian people in their just cause.

Dr. Majali said some progress was achieved in the ninth round of bilateral talks. Jordanians and Palestinians have formed three temporary working groups with the Israelis on the environment, energy, land, security, refugees and humanitarian issues. Progress did not last for long because of difficulties on the Israeli-Palestinian track, he said.

Dr. Majali, who took over as prime minister May 29, said Jordanian-Palestinian relations were strong and expressed Jordan's willingness to help the Palestinians with all it can.

He also dwelt on Jordanian efforts to highlight the Palestinian identity, "which has become acceptable to international parties and Israel as a result of the peace talks which were launched in Madrid."

Electricity tariff hikes expected

(Continued from page 1)

of government subsidies, will bring in an additional revenue of JD14 million.

Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim, announcing the increases, said Tuesday that the increase in kerosene prices was aimed at foiling profiteers who used to mix the 75-fils-a-litre kerosene with the 105-fils-a-litre diesel.

Genuine users of kerosene for heating and cooking purposes are expected to be compensated under a mechanism worked out by the authorities, he said. He did not give details, an official at the ministry said the compensation system had not been fully worked out yet.

The rationale behind increasing fuel prices for Royal Jordanian (RJ), the state-owned national carrier, the source said, was that the old 80-fils-a-litre price was possible only with a government subsidy. "The new (90-fils-a-litre) price only reflects a substantial move towards reflecting the cost price better," the source

explained. "In any event, RJ is supported by the government and the price increase would not make much of a difference to the airline," he said.

No senior RJ official was immediately available for comment, and it was not known whether the airline was planning any increase in its fares to make up for the additional cost.

The increases come in line with the terms of the IMF-prescribed economic restructuring programme and now clear the way for Jordan to set a World Bank loan of \$80 million to help revamp the Kingdom's energy sector.

The World Bank loan will be matched by a Japanese loan of an equal amount, thus raising the accessible funds to \$160 million.

Other sources said, meanwhile, water prices are also expected to be increased soon. Again, a slab formula will be applied under which the low-income class will be exempt from the increase. Details of the formula were not available.

Deputies seek clear government stand

(Continued from page 1)

extraordinary session during Wednesday's meeting but the move was not supported by other legislators who gave "priority to other courses of action."

The Brotherhood was "satisfied" with the deputies' decision not to request an extraordinary session unless the government changes the law, said Mr. Khreizat.

His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday told reporters that no change in the law will be introduced without consultations with all political groups and through a process similar to the one through which the National Charter was adopted.

Dr. Majali on Monday assured Dr. Arabiyat that government will not change the law without consultations "in which everybody would participate."

His assurances, however, fell short of satisfying the demands of the Brotherhood that no change be implemented without the approval of Parliament.

"Consultation is a broad term. As far as we are concerned, Parliament is the forum for consultations," Dr. Hammam, a Brotherhood deputy, said Tuesday. He said the Brotherhood would reject and resist any change to the law but added that the movement has not yet decided how to do that.

The Brotherhood Tuesday sought to leave its options open in the event of government amending the law unilaterally and did not rule out boycotting the ballot, scheduled for later this year.

Denktash opposes U.N. proposals

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash has said he would reject an "unbalanced package" of U.N. proposals on Cyprus and would ask Turkey to back him.

"I have to say no to this package in New York," Mr. Denkash told Anatolian news agency. "I will seek Turkey's support."

He was speaking on arrival in Ankara to consult Turkish leaders before resuming U.N. talks in New York adjourned last week

until June 14.

Mr. Denkash was due to hold talks with President Suleyman Demirel and acting Prime Minister Erdal Inonu and will address the Turkish parliament Thursday on the Cyprus issue.

He wants major issues at the core of the dispute to be dealt with at the same time as the confidence-building measures favoured by the five permanent members of the Security Council and Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

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Ivanisevic loses; 'mind' elsewhere

LONDON (AP) — It was the first time Goran Ivanisevic played on grass since last year's Wimbledon final.

Still, he was expected to easily beat Chris Wilkinson, a wild-card entry from Britain with a world ranking of 176 in Tuesday's second round of the Queen's Club Tournament.

But the fourth-seeded Ivanisevic lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in only 81 minutes. Something had to be wrong.

It had nothing to do with his form, as Ivanisevic showed he had the powerful serve and there were glimpses of groundstroke winners.

He just didn't have the heart to win.

"I was not out there today. Something else was on my mind," Ivanisevic said, referring to the death Monday night of fellow Croatian, basketball star Drazen Petrovic.

"I'm not making excuses, but I was not 100 per cent today," Ivanisevic said. "My friend died in a car accident. He was a good sportsman."

Petrovic, a third-team all-NBA selection with the New Jersey Nets, died in an automobile accident on a rain-slicked road in Germany when the car he was a passenger in crashed into a truck.

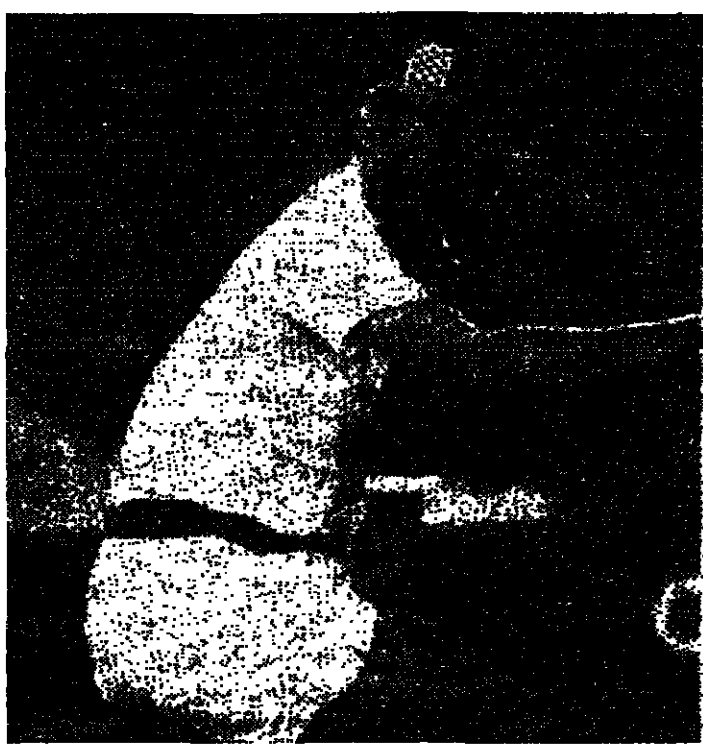
"He's never going to play anything again," Ivanisevic said. "He was a big man in Croatia. He was very helpful for Croatia. If you lose a person like him it's tough for the people. It's tough for sport in Croatia. What can you do?"

"You practice all your life and then, one second, you're not there any more."

Ivanisevic, known for being outspoken, said Petrovic's death would spur him on to greater things.

"He was a great man, a great sportsman and when I play Wimbledon, I will be playing for myself and for him. His death will give me something extra to play for."

Ivanisevic wasn't the only big-



Goran Ivanisevic

timer to lose Tuesday. Zimbabwesi Byron Black upset fifth-seeded Ivan Lendl 6-2, 7-6 (11-1), the second straight tournament winner of eight Grand Slam titles had an early exit.

Lendl lost in the opening round of the French Open to newcomer Stephane Huet of France. Black, ranked 116th in the world to Lendl's seventh, raced to a 5-0 lead and was in control throughout.

In other second-round matches Tuesday, No. 2 Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat Brett Steven of New Zealand 6-4, 7-6 (12-10) and third-seeded Boris Becker of Germany defeated Chuck Adams 6-1, 6-3.

In first-round play, No. 10 Marc Gosselin of Germany beat Tommy Ho 6-3, 6-4; Ross Mathison of Britain defeated No. 13 Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland 6-3, 7-6 (7-4); No. 12 David Wheaton eliminated Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; and No.

11 Todd Martin ousted Sebastian Larcean of Canada 6-2, 6-3.

The big-serving Ivanisevic did have nine aces, but he also had eight double faults and was foot-faulted twice.

Martina made to work all the way

Martina Navratilova, who has emerged as a prime contender to win her 10th Wimbledon title next month, received a severe workout from unheralded Swede Maria Strandlund in the Birmingham Women's Tennis Classic at Edgbaston Tuesday.

The top seed reached the third round with a 7-5, 7-6 (7-1) victory but only gained control in the tiebreak against the unflappable Swede, who lost in the qualifying rounds but received a place in the draw as a lucky loser.

With Steffi Graf doubtful for Wimbledon because of a foot injury and Monica Seles definitely out, Navratilova is being talked of as a champion once more. But she would rather compete against everyone.

"I would like to play Steffi," she insisted. "You don't want to win by default. I hope not only that she can play but that she's fully fit."

She may get her wish, following the news Tuesday that Graf's injury was not a stress fracture, as feared, but a less serious inflammation of the tissue membrane covering a bone in her foot.

Top 15 women's tennis players, according to rankings issued by the Women's Tennis Association:

1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
2. Monica Seles (Yugoslavia)
3. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
4. Martina Navratilova (U.S.)
5. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
6. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.)
7. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
8. Jennifer Capriati (U.S.)
9. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere (Switzerland)
13. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa)
14. Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria)
15. Mary Pierce (France)

Lebanon's winning goal came 15 minutes before the whistle when Wael Nazha trapped a low pass and shot past Hong Kong goalkeeper Chung Ho Yin from close range.

1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Kim Tae-Young scored two goals for the Koreans and Ha Suk-Ju and Park Jung-Bae added one goal each.

In Wednesday's other game, Lebanon edged Hong Kong 2-1. Hong Kong went ahead with a 10-minute kick by Lee Wai Man 11 minutes into the first half. Lebanon's Youssif Farhat tied the score 1-1 with a 10-minute kick 12 minutes before halftime.

Lebanon's winning goal came 15 minutes before the whistle when Wael Nazha trapped a low pass and shot past Hong Kong goalkeeper Chung Ho Yin from close range.

Two more Asian groups have yet to decide their winners to compete in the six-nation Asian finals. Asia has two slots for the

Standings

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
South Korea	7	6	1	0	20	1	13
Bahrain	7	2	3	2	6	3	7
Lebanon	6	1	4	1	6	8	6
Hong Kong	6	2	1	3	8	13	5
India	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

South Korea has one more game in the group, against Bahrain, but the outcome will not affect its advance to the Asian finals, for which Japan, North Korea and Saudi Arabia also have qualified so far.

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Hong Kong	6	2	1	3	8	13	5
India	6	0	1	5	4	19	1

"Van Basten may never fully recover"

ANTWERP (AP) — A leading specialist in soccer injuries said Marco Van Basten's career could be jeopardized after operation on the Dutch forward's right ankle.

"We are worried that the damage to the ankle is so serious that there will never be a full recovery for professional sports activity," said Prof. Marc Martens after completing a one-hour operation on the AC Milan player.

Martens said Van Basten will be out for at least four months. Doctors will then assess whether he will be able to return to professional soccer.

Van Basten, 28, is a three-time European Player of the Year and a key striker for AC Milan and the Dutch national team.

Van Basten underwent surgery on the injured right ankle Dec. 21 in Switzerland, but reported continued pain.

He returned to play in two league games as Milan's loss to Marseille last month in the European Cup final. Club sources said he needed pain-killing injections.

Van Basten's audacious goal-scoring skills was crucial in the Netherlands' 1988 European Championship victory where he scored the winning goal in the 2-0 victory over the Soviet Union in the final.

He also starred in AC Milan's European Cup wins in 1989 and 1990 and in the club's string of Italian League victories.

His reputation made him the target of tough tackling and he has a history of ankle injuries.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Ghanaian striker beaten by rival players

BUCHAREST (R) — A Ghanaian soccer player who plays for a top Romanian team has been beaten up by players in a rival team threatened by relegation. Samuel Mensah, a striker for Dinamo Bucharest, was attacked and beaten by eight players from Progresul Bucharest after a match between the two teams ended in a 1-1 draw last Sunday. Mensah, 20, was detained in hospital for treatment after the incident which took place an hour after the game had finished in a 1-1 draw.

Johnson bids to forget Olympic nightmare

ROME (R) — American sprinter Michael Johnson is determined to put the nightmare of last year's Olympic failure behind him in this World Championship season. "My toughest rivals? (Frankie) Fredericks, I think. Mike Marshall still has to show he is a real champion," Johnson added. Johnson to line up against Fredericks and Olympics 100 metres champion Linford Christie of Britain. Pole vaulter Sergei Bubka of Ukraine has his sights fixed on the 35th world record of his career.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Suns face Bulls as NBA mourns Petrovic

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Chuck Daly, never lost for words, struggled to find the right ones Tuesday. Willis Reed, known as one of the NBA's toughest guys in his playing days, cried.

On the day after New Jersey Nets star Drazen Petrovic was killed when a car driven by his girlfriend slammed into a truck on a German highway, the Nets held a news conference to discuss the tragedy.

NBA commissioner David Stern issued a statement that read: "Drazen was an extraordinary young man and a true pioneer in the global sport of basketball. Hopefully, a lasting part of his athletic legacy will be that he paved the way for other international players to compete successfully in this league."

His death also was felt in Phoenix, site of Wednesday's first game of the NBA finals between the Suns and Chicago Bulls.

"NBA players are a tight-knit fraternity," Barkley said. "It's like a death in the family."

And just about everyone had a hard time coping.

"He's just a great player in the prime of his career," Daly said, briefly unable to refer to Petrovic in the past tense. "I can only remember him as a happy kid smiling, wanting to win and playing the game he loved."

Outside the Meadows Arena where Daly and Reed spoke, the electronic message board read, "In memory of Drazen Petrovic 1964-1993."

Petrovic, 28, was killed the day after he played for his native Croatia in a tournament in Poland.

NBA championship series

- 1946-47 — Philadelphia Warriors def. Chicago Stags
1947-48 — Baltimore Bullets def. Philadelphia Warriors
1948-49 — Minneapolis Lakers def. Washington Capitols
1949-50 — Rochester Royals def. Syracuse Nationals
1950-51 — Minneapolis Lakers def. New York Knicks
1951-52 — Minneapolis Lakers def. New York Knicks
1952-53 — Minneapolis Lakers def. New York Knicks
1953-54 — Minneapolis Lakers def. Syracuse Nationals
1954-55 — Syracuse Nationals def. Fort Wayne Pistons
1955-56 — Philadelphia Warriors def. Fort Wayne Pistons
1956-57 — Boston Celtics def. St. Louis Hawks
1957-58 — St. Louis Hawks def. Boston Celtics
1958-59 — Boston Celtics def. Minneapolis Lakers
1959-60 — Boston Celtics def. St. Louis Hawks
1960-61 — Boston Celtics def. St. Louis Hawks
1961-62 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1962-63 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1963-64 — Boston Celtics def. San Francisco Warriors
1964-65 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1965-66 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1966-67 — Philadelphia 76ers def. San Francisco Warriors
1967-68 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1968-69 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1969-70 — New York Knicks def. Los Angeles Lakers
1970-71 — Milwaukee Bucks def. Baltimore Bullets
1971-72 — Los Angeles Lakers def. New York Knicks
1972-73 — New York Knicks def. Los Angeles Lakers
1973-74 — Boston Celtics def. Milwaukee Bucks
1974-75 — Golden State Warriors def. Washington Bullets
1975-76 — Boston Celtics def. Phoenix Suns
1976-77 — Portland Trail Blazers def. Philadelphia 76ers
1977-78 — Washington Bullets def. Seattle SuperSonics
1978-79 — Seattle SuperSonics def. Washington Bullets
1979-80 — Los Angeles Lakers def. Philadelphia 76ers
1980-81 — Boston Celtics def. Houston Rockets
1981-82 — Los Angeles Lakers def. Philadelphia 76ers
1982-83 — Philadelphia 76ers def. Los Angeles Lakers
1983-84 — Boston Celtics def. Los Angeles Lakers
1984-85 — Los Angeles Lakers def. Boston Celtics
1985-86 — Boston Celtics def. Houston Rockets
1986-87 — Los Angeles Lakers def. Boston Celtics
1987-88 — Los Angeles Lakers def. Detroit Pistons
1988-89 — Detroit Pistons def. Los Angeles Lakers
1989-90 — Detroit Pistons def. Portland Trail Blazers
1990-91 — Chicago Bulls def. Los Angeles Lakers
1991-92 — Chicago Bulls def. Portland Trail Blazers

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 11, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take the weekend off to see someone you like very much but haven't been able to spend much time with lately. Your fine ideas can be put into operation without fussing over all the minor details.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Use the early part of the day to show off your special abilities so you get others' support and then get into the actual work required to make such a success.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can do what your family desires of you that will reestablish a desirable harmony at your residence, then look to cost of anticipated pleasures.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Use the morning to get out whatever communications or reports require your attention while in the evening look over your home for ways to improve it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You have practical matters to handle until well after the noon hour, and then consider how you can best handle a long time outside issue.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Be up and about early by getting your own personal desires put into action motion while later it is advisable you take up long standing practical problems.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You can devise an interesting plan of action in the morning to get the things you desire the most quietly but later let friends know you will help with their concerns.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Whatever you have in mind for recreation with good friends is easy to arrange in the morning after which tackle those private concerns that worry you.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Continue with the outside activities of the preceding two days until after noon, then you can think in terms of your personal, intimate aims.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You see how to extend your interests and activities far beyond their present limits in the morning while later consider how to handle a public problem.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) A new awareness how you can best get practical and money matters worked out in the works for you in the morning while later avoid a depressing newswoman.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you can do to increase your reputation in your community and put in motion while later details of a project present a touchy situation.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) This is your day to arrange work conditions so they continue as you wish for sometime to come and later avoid an associate who likes to boss you.

DOWN 1. Reaps 2. Chases 3. Of 4. Out of the rat race 5. Play plan 6. Paper promises 7. Baked

8. Residue 9. Car and Joel 10. Singing plays 11. Weathercock 12. Name in art 13. Decoy: abbr. 14. Boost 15. Buenos 16. Hold back 17. Forebodings 18. "Can be told" 19. Principal part in some duets 20. Chided of 21. English river 22. After expenses 23. King of the Huns 24. Spaced 25. Bad, bad Brown 26. Fibbed 27. Lower 28. Show 29. Underestimation 30. Cow catcher 31. Mouthpiece 32. Too 33. Russian veto 34. Newcomer, of a kind 35. "Blunt"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 10, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Please others by complimenting their good points today and try to get on a better footing with some associates in your circle from whom you have become distanced. Start planning your vacation.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You now have the chance to put into motion your special gifts and to make considerable quick headway in reaping benefits from such actions.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can brighten your home and make it more a haven of rest by what you do today so don't procrastinate and do what you know will please your family.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into that correspondence and those communications with zest and acknowledge them in a bright and sparkling manner to please your contacts.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Now that financial change you have been considering should do well if you put it in effect at noon or shortly thereafter for best results.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Now is your day to go after the aims you yesterday decided upon in a positive and definite manner and they should soon be a part of your life.

VIRGO (August 22 to September 22) Those private ambitions that

you desire can have progress made in attaining them by quietly setting in motion today any necessary activity.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be with the most outgoing and generous friends you have to let them know your true desires and then let them aid you to obtain them.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Whatever brings you closer to worldly ambitions is good now after a morning of close study of public outlets and then go after them with confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Take a jaunt to some site where you can gain a fresh new approach at gaining the various outlets that you want in effect for sometime to come.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) Be on the lookout for some unusual service you can render to your attachment and do it in a generous spirit that will ease future relations.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) This is the day to go straight to that one who has the power to release to you the various support for which you have been seeking and gain benefits.

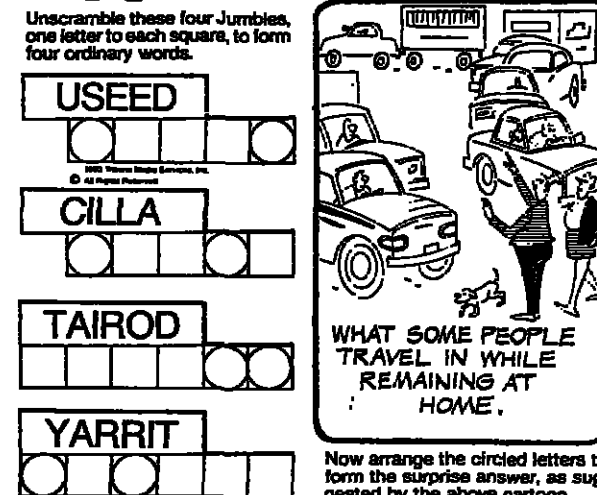
PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Now you find that you can quickly add that touch of charm and beauty to your surroundings that makes it easier for you to handle all matters.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"When I blew in his ear, it sounded like a tuba! I can't be romantic with a man who sounds like a tuba!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Herri Arnold



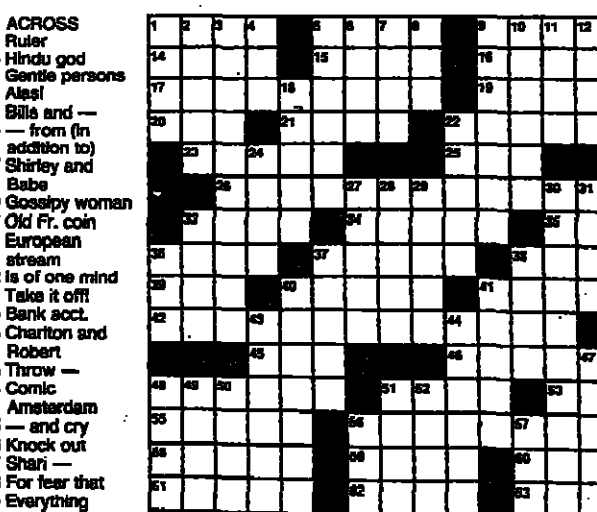
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: MAUVE TRULY SCHEME REDEEM

Answer: People in love seldom travel in these—THREES

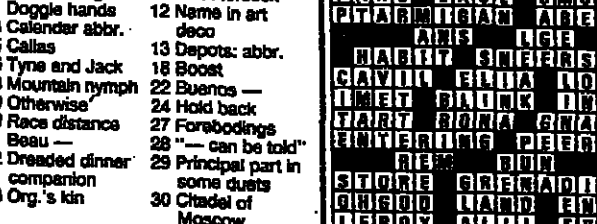
THE Daily Crossword by Nevea Archer



ACROSS 1. Ruler 2. Hindu god 3. Gentle persons 4. Area 5. Bills and — 6. — from (in addition to) 7. Shirley and Babe 8. Gossip women 9. Old Fr. coin 10. European street 11. Is of one mind 12. Tale it off 13. Bank acct. 14. Charities 15. Robert 16. Throw — 17. Comic 18. Amsterdam 19. — and cry 20. Knock out 21. Shari — 22. For fear that 23. Everything 24. Jeans material 25. Go on wheels 26. Ann and Jerry 27. Past 28. Post W.H. 29. Van Gogh's "The — Night" 30. Dapple hands 31. Culinary abbr. 32. Calais 33. Tyne and Jack 34. Mountain nymph 35. Otherwise 36. Faces distance 37. Beau — 38. Dressed dinner companion 39. Org.'s kin

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Muslim-led troops push offensive in central Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Muslim-led Bosnian government troops pursued their quest for territory in central Bosnia Wednesday, attacking villages near their captured stronghold of Travnik.

Authorities in Croatia, enraged by Muslim attacks on Bosnian Croats, demanded an immediate halt to what they termed "unheard of ethnic cleansing, the complete destruction of Croat villages... and the killing and expulsion of hundreds of innocent civilians."

Bosnian government troops fired over the heads of some fleeing Croat civilians late Tuesday, said Commander Barry Frewer, U.N. peacekeepers' spokesman in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital. British U.N. troops witnessed one incident of Bosnian troops shooting at civilians, apparently without killing any.

The battle for Travnik, the biggest clash of the war between Bosnian Muslims and Croats, has expanded into a push for Muslim control of a triangle of territory between Turbe, Travnik and Zenica.

The offensive by Bosnian government troops apparently was prompted by a desperate desire to acquire land and wreak revenge after months of defeats by Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats.

By capturing Travnik, the Muslim-led government forces moved a step closer to linking their strongholds in Tuzla and Zenica to the north with the Muslim-controlled towns of Jablanica and Konjic, 50 kilometres south of Travnik.

Bosnian government reinforcements from Zenica, 30 kilometres east of Travnik, launched a pre-dawn attack on hillside villages between the two towns, said Peter Osborne, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers in the Cro-

tian capital of Zagreb.

Thousands of Croat troops and civilians have been driven from the Travnik area, with many even seeking refuge with their enemies, Bosnian Serbs dug in on Mount Vlasica above Travnik.

Major James Miles, a spokesman for British U.N. peacekeepers, said that Tuesday, some of his troops came across Bosnian government forces firing on civilians in a village near Travnik.

Once they heard shots, the Britons "moved up, came across houses being burned, and there they saw Bosnian Muslims, that's (Bosnian) army people, firing on civilians fleeing," Maj. Miles told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"Many of the houses had been broken into, fired upon, set fire to. Explosives had been used, grenades probably, in the houses," he added. "The Croats were very much in the role of defending that area, but I'm told there were only some 30 defenders in that village. They were very much in fear for their lives when the soldiers came across them."

Croatian radio claimed Tuesday that at least 250 people had died in the battle for Travnik, and about 15,000 had fled.

Maj. Miles said there was evidence that "quite a number" of civilians had been killed, but there were no firm casualty figures.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman is in China. His chief of staff summoned Bosnia's ambassador in Croatia to protest the brutal aggression against Croats in Bosnia, Tudjman's office said.

British U.N. forces sheltered hundreds of Croats who took refuge from advancing Muslim forces in a church in the town of Guca Gora, just east of Travnik, Maj. Miles said.

"As weapons fire echoed down valleys around Travnik, Red

Cambodia generals meet Sihanouk

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Generals from Cambodia's government, which lost last month's elections, met head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk Wednesday to press demands for an interim power-sharing deal as the election winner flew back to Phnom Penh.

About 40 top military and police officers including Defence Minister Tea Banh arrived at Prince Sihanouk's palace in a 36-vehicle convoy escorted by military police in jeeps, witnesses said.

Outside the palace, U.N. peacekeepers staged an apparent show of strength. Three armoured personnel carriers and five trucks loaded with soldiers drove past.

Nigeria unions suspend fuel strike

LAGOS (R) — Two unions in OPEC-member Nigeria's state oil corporation have called off strikers that brought misery to millions of commuters and threatened to hamper next Saturday's first presidential poll in a decade, state radio said.

The two-day-long strike by the middle management union Pengeru and the Nupeng Union, which includes tanker drivers, had left refineries idle and hundreds of filling stations dry.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. wants Germany, Japan on Security Council

NEW YORK (R) — The United States ambassador to the United Nations said Wednesday that the United States would support Japan and Germany's bid for a permanent Security Council seat and would support its proposals at the end of the month. Madeleine Albright, in a speech to the Foreign Policy Association late Tuesday, also said the United States would recommend an inspector general's office to conduct audits and investigate abuses in the United Nations bureaucracy. On Security Council reform, she said the Clinton administration, in contrast to its predecessors, "believes both Japan and Germany should be made permanent members of the Security Council," according to a text of her address. But she said proposals to expand council membership should not "sacrifice the council's new-found effectiveness." Mr. Albright said the United States would prepare a "detailed response" at the end of the month to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's request for views on expanding the council.

Andreotti may be probed in murder case

ROME (AP) — Prosecutors on Wednesday asked the Senate for authority to investigate former Premier Giulio Andreotti in connection with the 1979 murder of a political journalist. The seven-time premier is already under investigation for alleged corruption and association with mafia bosses. As a senator for life, he is protected by parliamentary immunity, for each case a prosecutor needs specific approval from the Senate to proceed. Mr. Andreotti told reporters Wednesday that all the allegations, including the one connecting to the murder, were lies by mafia informers. Italian news agencies said the judicial request, signed by Prosecutor Vittorio Mele, was about 100 pages long and dealt exclusively with allegations made by mafia turncoat tommaso Buscetta.

Suspicious explosion rocks British gas depot

LONDON (AP) — A massive explosion destroyed a natural gas tower early Wednesday, sending flames and smoke into the night sky of a northeast English town. Several hundred residents ran from their homes or were evacuated by police after the 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) blast at a British gas depot, but no one was seriously injured, authorities said. The explosion at Gateshead, an industrial town on the south bank of the River Tyne about 400 kilometres north of London, raised official fears of renewed IRA attacks in Britain. A police spokesman said army forensic experts were combing the area around the 80-foot tower for traces of explosive and were treating the incidents as "suspicious." British gas said a security alarm was triggered prior to the blast. A spokesman maintained it "must have been deliberate." But fire department spokesman Ken Horn told reporters that initial searches turned up no evidence of a bomb.

Home of Sinn Fein leader attacked

BELFAST (R) — A grenade was thrown at the home of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams Wednesday, police sources said. No one was injured in the attack, the second within 24 hours on the homes of people linked to the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland. A Sinn Fein spokesman said Mr. Adams was not in the house at the time of the attack but his wife and son were "shaken."

Haiti's prime minister steps down

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti reacted peacefully to Prime Minister Marc Bazin's resignation after he lost the support of the powerful military. Some Haitian politicians predicted the resignation Tuesday would lead to a more right-wing government, but U.N. mediator Dante Caputo and others said it might hasten the return of democracy. After the announcement, the capital remained peaceful, its streets crowded with pedestrians, street merchants and battered cars, trucks and buses. Soldiers guarded the vacant national palace while Haitians awaited word from the army on who would replace Mr. Bazin, designated prime minister by the military a year ago.

Azeri rebels call on government to quit

GYANDZHHA, Azerbaijan (R) — The leader of a military uprising in Azerbaijan's second city called Wednesday for President Abulfaz Elchibey and the rest of the former Soviet republic's leadership to resign. Suret Guseinov blamed the Popular Front government for five hours of clashes in Gyandzha last Friday in which about 70 soldiers and civilians were killed. "All those who are guilty for the blood spilled must be punished, strictly punished," he told Reuters. "We know the president gave the order for the military action, so he also must step down." Mr. Guseinov said he was setting up a military tribunal to try four senior government officials seized by his men June 4.

Liberia rebels' headquarters bombed

ABIDJAN (R) — A Liberian rebel officer accused West African intervention forces Tuesday of bombing his group's headquarters as part of an attempted final onslaught against his leader Charles Taylor. Tom Woewiy, senior military official in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), said air strikes on the northern town of Gbarnga began Saturday. He repeated denials that Mr. Taylor's rebels were responsible for a massacre of at least 350 civilians at a rubber plantation 65 kilometres east of the Liberian capital Monrovia. A team from Monrovia's Merit Hospital went to the massacre site Tuesday and put the death toll at 350. About 700 people were reported wounded. Survivors of what is the worst atrocity for three years in Liberia's civil war said the attackers were NPFL.

White millionaire elected L.A. mayor

LOS ANGELES (R) — Richard Riordan, a millionaire venture capitalist, has won a bitterly fought race to succeed Tom Bradley as mayor of the second largest U.S. city, still battling to recover from last year's riots. Mr. Riordan, a conservative Republican, took 54 per cent of the vote in Tuesday's balloting while Michael Woo, a liberal Democrat and city councilman, claimed 46 per cent, according to final returns. The retirement of Mr. Bradley, the longest-serving black mayor of a major U.S. city, after 20 years in office opened a new era in Los Angeles as it tries to heal the wounds of the riots and revive its recession-hit economy.

Mondale said to accept ambassadorship to Japan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale has accepted President Bill Clinton's offer to nominate him as ambassador to Japan, a newspaper reported Wednesday.



Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako leave for a parade in their honour after their marriage ceremony at the Imperial Palace (AFP photo)

Crown Prince Naruhito weds Masako Owada

TOKYO (AP) — In somber and mystical rites Wednesday at the nation's most sacred shrine, Crown Prince Naruhito wed commoner Masako Owada, bringing a more modern, cosmopolitan generation to the 1,500-year-old Chrysanthemum throne.

With sips of wine before the shrine dedicated to the sun goddess, Miss Owada — who reluctantly relinquished a diplomatic career for marriage — joined the world's oldest surviving royal family as 800 guests watched outside the shrine.

The long-awaited marriage of the future emperor to the woman he pursued for years has captured the romantic imagination of the nation and reinforced the popularity of the royal family.

Many Japanese hope the new princess — a former diplomat who spent much of her childhood abroad — might bring a new, more open face to the aloof imperial institutions that symbolise Japan's traditional culture.

The prince, educated at Oxford as was his bride, also brings a cosmopolitan background to the ancient throne.

For their wedding, however, the somber-faced couple were a picture of feudal Japan, in billowing kimonos patterned after 9th-century court dress. She wore a multi-coloured pattern of nine kimono. The prince wore a bright orange kimono and a black crown of lacquered gauze.

Some 800 select guests, clad in formal wear, stood outside as Prince Naruhito read a wedding pledge that the couple would live in happiness until parted by death.

The 13-minute ceremony took place in near-silence at the heart of the wooded, imperial palace compound, with a hush broken only by birdsong.

Following the ceremony, the newlyweds prayed at two other palace shrines. They later changed into western formal wear — a long beige silk gown and diamond tiara for Princess Masako — and formally appeared before Prince Naruhito's parents, who in keeping with tradition did not attend the wedding rites.

In an exchange in formal court language, the Crown Prince informed his parents of the wedding. Emperor Akihito congratulated the couple and instructed them to establish a family and admirably serve "the country, society and humankind."

Emperor Akihito and his family are admired and respected by the nation they represent, and their image remains untarnished thanks to zealously protective palace bureaucrats and the docile, cooperative local media.

But the imperial family occupies a controversial place in Japanese society because of its associations with Japan's militaristic past. The constitution limits the emperor to a purely symbolic role, and the family keeps a low profile, hidden behind the stone walls and moats of the imperial palace.

Much of the wedding thus was a private affair attended only by a select group, many government officials. The palace declined to disclose the invitees, but officials said no foreigners attended — perhaps to avoid issues of protocol.

Only the royal couple and a small group of court ritualists attended the secretive and mystical wedding ceremony. The guests observed the shrine from a distance as the rest of the nation watched on live television.

The government declared a national holiday to mark the day-long wedding festivities, and thousands were expected to turn out for the couple's brief parade through scrupulously guarded streets in downtown Tokyo.

The government also planned to pardon about 30,000 people, including nearly 6,000 found guilty of violating election laws. Critics accused the government of exploiting the celebrations to rescue convicted staffers of the governing Liberal Democratic Party.

Financial markets, banks, post offices and many businesses closed, although some department stores were having special sales. One shopping centre gave away free rice wine to mark the wedding.

In central Tokyo, light poles were festooned with bouquets of red roses flanked by rising-sun flags. Paper lanterns with wed-

Seven sixth-graders charged in scheme to hurt teacher

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP) — Seven sixth-graders plotted for months against their teacher — dumping chemicals in her iced tea, trying to trip her on stairs and smuggling weapons into school — all because she tried to discipline them, police said. The 12- and 13-year-old students from Georgetown Elementary School were arrested Friday on disorderly conduct charges and released to their parents' custody. The four boys and three girls were not identified because of their age. The students "conspired to do away with (their teacher) because she wanted to make them behave," detective Maj. John Wood said Monday.

Australia has 2nd fatal shark attack in five days

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia had its second fatal shark attack in five days when a man was killed while scuba diving Wednesday. Police said the attack took place off the resort town of Bryon Bay, 650 kilometres north of Sydney. The man's wife, who was diving with him, was not hurt but is suffering from shock. She told ambulance officers she saw the shark take her husband. Searchers later found a human leg with a flipper still attached. Last Saturday a woman was killed by a 3.5 metre white pointer shark while diving near a seal colony off the northern coast of Tasmania state.

Apartment residents walk past dying man for 2 days

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Apartment residents walked past a dying man for two days, thinking he had just passed out after a party, police said. Residents finally called an ambulance and Sidney Brookins, 38, died the next day. The Hennepin County medical examiner ruled Monday that he died from a beating to his head and neck. Lt. Brad Johnson, head of the police homicide unit, said Mr. Brookins was beaten during a party at the building April 16. He said it appeared Mr. Brookins fell to the floor near a doorway, where he remained until April 18. Mr. Brookins did not live in the building. Police did not know how many people lived in the apartment where the party was held. An autopsy found pockets of blood on Mr. Brookins' brain, evidence of a beating, Mr. Johnson said. The death remains under investigation and no arrests had been made, he said.

'No angel' so sex offender is not jailed

WINCHESTER (R) — A sex offender escaped a jail sentence Tuesday after a judge said the eight-year-old girl he abused was "not entirely an angel." In a case that enraged the girl's family, Karl Gambrell, 21, was given two years' probation rather than a jail sentence because Judge Ian Starforth Hill said he believed the child to have been sexually experienced. "The law in this country protects little girls because they do not know what is right and what is wrong... however, I have been provided with information which leads me to think she was not entirely an angel herself," Mr. Hill said.

Town fears 'bride of Dracula'

LIMA (R) — A town in Peru is in an uproar over a legend that an Englishwoman buried in the town is a vampire who has vowed to return to life Tuesday night to seek revenge. Windows, doors and chimneys in the town of Pisco, 200 kilometres south of Lima, have been festooned with garlic. The commotion began when a U.S. television programme seen in Lima reported that Englishman John Roberts arrived by ship in Pisco 80 years ago with a coffin containing the body of Sarah Ellen, his wife. He paid five pounds to bury her and left. She was one of three brides of Dracula, the programme said.

Pig gores N. Zealand farmer to death

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (R) — A New Zealand farmer was gored to death by one of his pigs, police said Wednesday. Police constable Eric Watson told reporters that Kenneth Johnson bled to death after he was gored in the groin and upper leg by a pig on his farm at Halkett, in the south island Province of Canterbury. Johnson had left his wife early Tuesday evening to feed the animals on their small farm.

Arsonists set fire to house in Germany

DUESSELDORF, Germany (R) — A unidentified arsonist set fire to a house belonging to an Indian family near Dusseldorf early Wednesday, a German prosecutor said.

No-one was injured in the blaze in the small town of Watchendorf, state prosecutor Reinhard Vogel said.

He declined to say whether the attack was the work of racist extremists who have been fire-bombing houses occupied by foreigners in Germany almost nightly.

Fire-fighters were called after arsonists set feather quilts ablaze in the former kindergarten. An attempt to set fire to a car failed, Mr. Vogel said.

Extreme rightists killed five Turks in Germany's most vicious racist attack May 29 in the steel town of Solingen.

On Tuesday 14 Turks were taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation after arsonists attacked foreigners' homes in four different parts of Germany overnight Monday.

Meanwhile, Germany's industry warned that the recent spate of violence could hurt the country's already troubled economy.

U.S. official calls for political reform in China

SHANGHAI (R) — Only political reform in China can restore the old warmth to Sino-U.S. ties, now fraught with tension over human rights, trade and arms sales, Washington's top official on Asian affairs said Wednesday.

Winston Lord, in a satellite interview, stressed the seriousness of problems that divide China and the United States four years after the Chinese army crushed pro-democracy student demonstrations around Peking's Tiananmen Square June 4, 1989.

"We have some serious differences over human rights," the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs said in the live interview. "These have been heightened ever since Tiananmen Square."

"There's been some progress particularly with the economic opening and reforms but we believe some serious problems persist," Mr. Lord told questioners in Asian cities.

He added: "Until there is greater political reform to accompany the very impressive economic reform then the full warmth of Sino-U.S. relations that we saw before the Tiananmen Square massacre probably will not occur."

U.S. President Bill Clinton has extended for another year China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status, but has made further renewal conditional on progress on human rights.

Separately, the United States is pressing China to open its markets further to U.S. goods and services to slash Peking's ballooning trade surplus and to abide by its international commitments to halt the spread of dangerous weapons.

On the human rights conditions, which address the issue of Chinese prison labour, Mr. Lord said: "They're serious, they're credible, they're international norms, not American requests or demands, and we believe they're achievable."

China blames U.S.

In another development, a Chinese official indirectly blamed the U.S. government Tuesday for the growing tide of illegal refugees coming to America, saying that countries offering political asylum encourage illegal immigration.

The latest group of nearly 300 Chinese migrants were discovered by police early Sunday as they tried to escape from a coastal freighter that ran around on a New York City beach.

Six of the Chinese died trying to get to shore. The Immigration and Naturalisation Service is holding 271. Almost all have applied for political asylum, officials said.

The boatload, the 24th since 1991, is part of a growing tide of such smuggling attempts, according to INS officials.